

Scargill told no wage talks until NCB conditions are accepted

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

A fresh blow was sustained by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) yesterday at the hands of Mr Ian MacGregor, the Coal Board chairman, who refused to countenance any talks on pay until the union agrees to preconditions on incentive and bonus payments. In response, Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM President, has called his executive into emergency session next Thursday.

The NUM leadership last Thursday rejected by 10 votes to nine the board's demands and decided instead to make a new effort to discover what was on offer before the commitment was given.

Mr MacGregor made it clear yesterday that there would be no pay talks of any kind with the union and therefore no question of "clarification" of the offer. A letter to that effect has been sent by Mr Kevan Hunt, the NCB's head of industrial relations, to the union's headquarters.

During the next five days pressure is likely to mount on Mr Scargill to bow to the board's wishes. Pitsmen in the breakaway areas of Nottinghamshire and south Derbyshire have been receiving a pay rise worth 6 per cent to 7 per cent, since November 1.

The board's hard line was hailed last night by Mr David Prendergast, financial secretary of the Nottinghamshire miners, as another reason why NUM members should join his organization. The stand by Mr Scargill was "suicidal", he said.

Speaking in Coalville, Leicestershire, Mr MacGregor said the next move "is up to Mr Scargill and his associates". He added: "Mr Scargill has not fulfilled the conditions which are required before we meet again. When he has done that we will probably have a meeting."

"There is no way we can negotiate with him. The princi-

pal basis for future improvement in wages is a system he and his executive have rejected. Until they change their view there is nothing we can do."

The NUM executive indicated on Thursday that it did not want to accept the preconditions because they were negotiating "in the dark", but Mr MacGregor yesterday countered: "They won't know what the deal will be until they decide whether they are going to negotiate."

Any such deal would be heavily biased towards "rewards for improvements in performance and efficiency."

In a statement last night, Mr Scargill said that his executive had been instructed by the membership to ask the management for details "which believe that any reasonable employer should be prepared to explain what is on offer," he said.

NUM members wanted to know what the unspecified incentive elements are, bearing in mind that the board insists that they are not negotiable, Mr Scargill said. Members also wanted to know whether the incentives include surface workers, underground workers not employed at the coal face, and clerical workers.

The political committee of the Nottinghamshire miners has reaffirmed its commitment to support Labour MPs and councillors in the area.

Mr Neil Creaser, a spokesman for the NUM, said that south Derbyshire is seeking independent status as a union, said he believed the Labour Party would eventually recognize the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

Both Mr Don Concannon, MP for Mansfield, and Mr Frank Haynes, MP for Ashfield, were sponsored by the NUM.

Fit winners in north Staffordshire have voted to join the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

Five killed as Glasgow blast demolishes flats

From Colin Hughes Glasgow

Five people were killed, including an entire family of four, by a gas explosion which wrecked a block of four flats in Glasgow yesterday.

Early investigations by the Scottish Gas Board suggest that a leak from a fractured four-inch mains pipe caused the blast, followed by an explosive fireball, which demolished the building.

The board immediately launched an official inquiry, backed by the Health and Safety Executive, with expert staff from the British Gas Research Station in the Midlands.

Two neighbours living immediately behind the house, which stood on the corner of Kingsbridge Drive and Bankhead Road in the Kings Park area of the city, said they had noticed a strong smell of gas in the street during the past few days.

Mrs Teresa Coyle said: "A very strong smell has been coming up the path between my house and the house where the explosion happened. I thought several times about reporting it to the gas board but no one else mentioned it to me so I put off making the call."

Mr Jim Reye said: "There is no doubt about it, there has been a strong smell of gas in the street on that corner for several days now."

The blast happened at 8.05am when Mr James McMillan, the postman was delivering to the front door leading up to the top flat on the left of the building.

It occurred in the ground floor flat on the left, killing all the four members of the McKenzie family, whose home was blown into the street.

"I saw their kitchen window shatter down at the side of the house. I took a step towards the McKenzie's front door when I saw a ball of flame flying towards me. Rubble was raining down, and I was thrown backwards into the road and trapped under the stones. When I looked round, the flats



Mr Norman Rodgers, who suffered minor injuries in the blast, standing outside the wrecked building.

were just a pile of stone and wood, and there were flames 20ft high", Mr McMillan said.

Mr John and Mrs Gina McKenzie and their two children, Ian, aged two, and Debbie, aged nine weeks, all died, crushed when the building collapsed on to them, and a fierce fire swept through the house.

In the flat above them, Mr David Thomson, a pensioner, fell through the rubble, and was dug out by neighbours. He was critically ill in hospital last

night, but his wife, Margaret, was killed.

In the adjacent upstairs flat, Mr Norman Rodgers fell into the back garden, suffering from shock and minor injuries, and was found by a fireman who was returning home from night duty. The fireman helped Mr Rodgers' son Steven to escape from the fire.

Mrs Andrea Rodgers was out walking the dog at the time, and the couple's daughter had left for work, as had Miss Helen Scott, the sole resident

of the ground floor flat on the right.

Only the McKenzie's flat was served with gas, running along a small service pipe from a mains, which passed under the pavement 15 yards from the front door.

Mr Robin Hill, the Scottish Gas chairman, said his engineers had found a fracture in the mains, and were attempting to find out if the gas had leaked into the ground floor flat through the subsoil, but he could not explain how the fracture occurred.

He said the fracture was a tiny crack, but it was too early to say if it had caused the explosion. He doubted whether the fracture had been caused by frost. "It may have been heavy transport bumping up on to the pavement around the corner. The road is in a pretty bad condition in that area."

Mr John McKay, the Junior Minister at the Scottish Office, responsible for health, promised Parliament that there would be a thorough inquiry.

Third leak in month

Poison alert at nuclear plant

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Central Electricity Generating Board has started an inquiry into an incident yesterday at the Hinkley Point nuclear power station at Bridgewater in Somerset.

A leak of 15 tons of carbon dioxide gas occurred from one of the two advanced gas-cooled reactors, AGRs, on site. During normal operation traces of argon-41, carbon-41, nitrogen-16, sulphur-35 and tritium accumulate in the gas.

It is the third and most serious leak at the station in a month. The board said nobody was injured and the amount of radioactivity involved was insignificant.

Carbon dioxide is used to transfer heat from the uranium fuel to the boilers for generating steam for the electricity tur-

bines. Each reactor has eight large pumps to circulate the gas.

Serious risks of radioactive contamination of the gas occur as a fuel canister overheats, causing pressure inside to rise and the container to burst. The board said the reactor was shut down three days ago for maintenance. The leak happened when a shaft of one of the circulating pumps ruptured during engineering work.

The reactor building was evacuated until men in protective clothing plugged the leak. The board said the men needed breathing masks to protect them from the carbon dioxide gas, which would cause them to suffocate. There was no need for protective wear against radiation.

Under normal conditions the cooling circuits contain 120 tons of carbon dioxide, which is pumped continuously round a closed system. Every two years carbon dioxide is released to the atmosphere over a 24-hour period, when the reactor is depressurized for overhaul. Then the gas passes through charcoal filter beds to extract any iodine-131 that might have leaked.

The board's nuclear reactors have not undergone the expected maintenance programme during the last year because they were kept operating at maximum levels during the miners' strike.

The accident happened at 9.30 am and the leak was plugged by 2 pm.

Help sought in graffiti dispute

The Government may be asked to intervene in a teachers' dispute which has closed a Manchester school for the past nine weeks.

An approach to Mr Robert Dunn, Under Secretary of State for Education, will be made today by a Conservative councillor, Mr John Kershaw.

He announced his proposal at an extraordinary meeting of the city council, the second to be called to try to resolve the issue of the future of five pupils expelled for daubing obscene graffiti on walls at Poldswick High School, Wythenshawe.

The move came after the chairman of the education policy sub-committee, Mr Nick Harris, disclosed that a further initiative aimed at resolving the dispute is to be put to the teachers' unions involved, although he would give no further details.

It is understood that the new initiative involves the intervention of the Dean of Manchester, the Very Rev Robert Waddington, who volunteered to act as mediator after talks conducted by Asec collapsed.

A proposal by Liberal members of the council, that the five expelled pupils should receive private education until their future is determined, was rejected by the Labour-controlled council.

The TUC has been asked to try to sort out the differences between the two biggest unions in the English and Welsh teachers' pay dispute.

The largest union, the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday it had written to Mr Norman Willis, TUC

general secretary, asking him to convene a meeting between itself and the second largest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

The teacher organizations now taking strike action in the 10-month-old dispute - are at loggerheads over tactics.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, has told Mr Willis he is anxious to retrieve the unity at national level which had existed until recently. Co-operation between the two unions at local level was "quite remarkable", he added.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the NAS/UTW, welcomed the NUT move.

Nearly 900,000 Scottish schoolchildren will have their education disrupted next Thursday when teachers stage an all-day walkout.

Watchdog will check phone rises

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Professor Bryan Carsberg, the Government's official British Telecom watchdog, is to carry out a further examination of the recent increase in telephone charges.

He has told Dr Oonagh McDonald, a Labour front bench, that the price rises had complied with Telecom licence conditions, not exceeding an average of 3 percentage points below the rate of inflation.

"However, I am aware that the recent price increases are the subject of very great public concern and consequently I have decided to conduct a further review of the whole situation and to publish another statement when I have done so," he said.

Professor Carsberg, who is director general of telecommunications, said: "I cannot hold out any expectation that I shall be able to force British Telecom to go back on the price increases." But he added: "I shall consider to what extent I can properly apply additional public pressure to affect their policy for the future."

He also said that the licence condition on pricing would need to be renegotiated by 1989 and he saw that as "an important opportunity" to pass on to consumers the benefits of efficiencies in Telecom operations.

The director-general said that he expected the new licence terms to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He told Dr McDonald: "My own position will be to ensure that British Telecom is limited to a fair rate of return on capital invested while continuing to have incentives to achieve additional economies."

'Lohengrin' draft sold for £187,000

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

Wagner's first draft of the libretto of "Lohengrin" was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £187,000 (estimate £150,000-£200,000). It is one of the few main Wagner manuscripts left in private hands and seems to have been written in white heat after the completion of the full score of "Tannhäuser" in April 1845 and the prose draft of "Die Meistersinger" in July. The composer has written his name and the date, "27 November 1845", at the end of the manuscript.

The manuscript comprises 29 pages with extensive alterations, deletions and revisions. There are more than 200 variants from the printed text. It even contains a singing part for the swan. The purchaser chose to remain anonymous.

Another remarkable offering in Sotheby's sale of music and manuscripts was the original instrumental and vocal parts of four sacred works by Handel, prepared for the first performance in Rome in 1707. They were written out by someone else but scrutinized and annotated by Handel. It is the only known set of parts for a first performance of Handel to have survived.

A foreign private collector paid £58,000 (estimate £50,000-£100,000) for a set of 40 National Geographic Association workers dismissed by the group earlier this year, said that because management would not change its decision over the dismissals, there was no point in staying out.

FT to cost 40p

The Financial Times increases its price from 35p to 40p on Monday.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia £10.00, Canada £10.00, Hong Kong £10.00, India £10.00, Japan £10.00, New Zealand £10.00, Singapore £10.00, South Africa £10.00, Switzerland £10.00, Taiwan £10.00, Thailand £10.00, USA £10.00, West Germany £10.00, Yugoslavia £10.00.

IRA forces builders to abandon contracts

Death threats by the IRA have forced three large building companies in Northern Ireland to pull out of contracts for the security forces. About 300 building workers will lose their jobs.

The contracts, worth several million pounds, were for the building of new security-force bases and the renovation and maintenance of existing ones, particularly in the north and west of the province.

An IRA statement earlier this week singled out three companies it said were engaged on building "enemy fortresses", warned owners, company directors and senior managers that they had been targeted, and gave the companies seven days to halt their work.

● Captain Gordon Hanna, aged 46, of the Ulster Defence Regiment, was killed by a booby trap bomb set by the IRA at Killead, Co Down, yesterday.

● The Anglo-Irish agreement, which gives the Irish Republic a say in the running of Northern Ireland, formally came into effect yesterday after the exchange in Dublin of notifications by the two governments of their acceptance of the deal, the Foreign Office said.

● Dublin's anti-terrorist, Special Criminal Court yesterday set next February 4 for the trial of Dominic McGlinchey, the former leader of the Irish National Liberation Army, on charges of having a gun to resist arrest - and - shooting at a police officer at a "Newman's Own" bar in Dublin on March 17 last year.

Fowler fails in drugs appeal

A High Court ruling which outlawed the Government's new system of reimbursing dispensing chemists for prescriptions, has been overturned by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The judges unanimously dismissed an appeal by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, against a decision of Mr Justice Taylor that the two-tier system, introduced in January, restricted imports in breach of the EEC Treaty. Mr Fowler was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Strike ends

Striking journalists at a Kent newspaper group voted yesterday to return to work. National Union of Journalists at the Kent Messenger Group, who had been on strike in sympathy with the 40 National Geographic Association workers dismissed by the group earlier this year, said that because management would not change its decision over the dismissals, there was no point in staying out.

Vauxhall deal

Unions at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant yesterday accepted an agreement expected to create nearly 1,200 new jobs in the next three years. The deal guarantees that the capacity of the Cheshire car factory will be increased to 48 vehicles an hour and includes assurances on job security even if market demand falls.

Riotraper remand

A student aged 22, was remanded in custody until Monday accused of raping the daughter of a Conservative MP during the recent Brixton riots.

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PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 29 1985 MPs concerned about child abuse

Tories attack judges: calls for heavier sentences

COMMONS

Two Conservative back-benchers attacked the Government's use of the sentences passed in child abuse cases and other cases, Mr Raymond Whiteman, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, who replied to a Commons debate on child abuse, said sentencing was beyond the responsibility of the DHSS.

However he said there was undoubtedly public concern about sentencing which must be recognized. Mr Michael Mearns, chief Opposition spokesman on social services, called on the Government to heed the campaign for family courts, but Mr Whiteman pointed to the lack of agreement about them.

Points made in their review of child care law could fit either the existing court system or a new family court.

The DPP and the judge between them let a barbaric murderer off with six years when life imprisonment would have satisfied, in the absence of capital punishment.

However, Mr John Rymas (Blyth Valley, Lab) considered it was wrong for MPs to attack judges over sentencing. Judges were best able to decide sentences because they knew the full facts of cases. Reporters heard only what was said in court.

Recent cases of serious injury and death in child abuse cases had shocked and angered the nation, Dr Norman Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) said in opening the debate on a motion calling on the Government to encourage and facilitate the development of means of prevention, detection and treatment of child abuse.

All were anxious, he went on, to see a dramatic decline in abuse cases and the easiest way to catch the headlines was to malign the social worker, he was aware of the problems they faced and the difficult and demanding task they undertook. The Government had a responsibility to see that social workers caring for children were given necessary support, guidance, supervision and management. Administrative procedures should also be examined to ensure that effective mechanisms existed for the removal of the child if necessary.

It was time for Parliament to look at the causal relationship between the rise in pornography, the increasing lack of responsibility of

film makers and those responsible for television programmes who put out a continuous stream of screen violence and brutality.

The high prices of permissiveness (he continued) have thrown their hands in horror at the slightest suggestion that there is a causal relationship. They have had their day. Like the rest of us, they should be able now to see the carnage and social wreckage they have helped to cause.

The most revolting aspect of this increasingly dirty and pitiless scene is child abuse.

Mr Michael Hancock (Farnham, Con) said insufficient resources were being made available to allow social services departments to react properly. It was a form of child abuse for local authorities to put families with three children on the fourth floor of a tower block.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens said big sums of money were involved where evil people wanted sexual relations with children. As names had come into his possession, so the threats had come: threatening telephone calls followed by two burglaries of his London home and his name on a hit list.

Organizations which interested themselves in adult-child sexual relationships should not be allowed to exist, they should be proscribed. When he had been trained as a magistrate in the 1960s he was instructed that sentences should be

designed to punish, reform if possible, deter, and to protect society.

The Charlene Salt case was one example of how the Director of Public Prosecutions department had made grave errors, as had the judge.

The father had said he had been on the arm of a woman and possibly on the wall because she would not stop crying. Brain haemorrhage was ruled.

That was murder in anybody's book (he said) not manslaughter; not wife in a moment but a premeditated killing. The Social Security Minister replied to me in a five page letter but I remain unconvinced because Charlene was a little baby only a few weeks old.

It was open to the judge to direct that there should be a further indictment for murder.

Most of the social services were hard-working and caring but social services attracted some doubtful recruits.

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مكتبة الأمل

Judge quashes closure of boys-only school as sexual discrimination

Boys have as much legal right to single-sex education as girls, Mr Justice Taylor ruled in the High Court yesterday.

He said the proposed closure of a boys-only comprehensive school in Bristol breached sex discrimination laws because girls would be kept single-sex schools. "To deprive boys, but not girls, of the right to single-sex education is to treat boys less favourably."

That was contrary to the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, he said. The judge quashed an Avon County Council proposal to close Merrywood Boys' School, a comprehensive in south Bristol.

The order was made at the request of Merrywood parents who formed an action committee to fight the closure.

The education authority had said that a decision in the parents' favour could have far-reaching consequences throughout Bristol. All authorities which provided single-sex education for one sex, but not the other, could break the Act.

The judge said such situations would have to be dealt with when they arose. The courts might be required to consider how to exercise discretion.

Avon council is to consider an appeal. Afterwards Mr John Butterfield, chairman of the Merrywood Action Committee, said: "Today we have made legal history."

His wife, Sheila, said: "They are taking away our parental choice. We have just won that back."

They said that parents at other Bristol schools were angry at the education authority's re-organization plans, including the changing of catchment areas, and were planning similar campaigns.

Most of the schools are setting up action committees. Mr Stephen Keating, whose son aged 15 has just taken mock CSE examinations at Merrywood, said:

The judge said the closure of Merrywood was seen by the education authority as a way of increasing the falling numbers of pupils.

But it was decided to keep two girls-only schools - Merrywood Girls and Penpark in north Bristol - partly because of the large Muslim population and their religious requirements for single-sex education.

He said there were 1,803 objections to the closure of

Merrywood Boys' School. The county council now seemed to be having a "late change of heart" and was reconsidering its proposals.

It had requested the director of education to report on possible alternative re-organizations which did not include closing Merrywood.

As well as deciding the main legal issue in favour of the parents, the judge refused the authority's appeal to exercise discretion and not make the quashing order because of the administrative upheaval it would cause.

To refuse to make the order would whittle down the Sex Discrimination Act, he said. He also ruled out the possibility of Bristol boys who required single-sex education being transported, at public expense, to a boys-only school in Bath.

The judge said that would involve the "onerous" necessity of two hours daily travelling which the city's girls would not have to undergo. That, too, was "less favourable treatment" under the Act.

The judge ordered the authority to pay the parents' legal costs.

Bright pupils' poor image of industry

Industry is no longer such a dirty word with students, but to bright 13 to 18-year-olds it still has a depressing image, according to two surveys published yesterday.

Eight per cent of undergraduates believe industry offers an interesting future and 54 per cent think it untrue that "bright and ambitious graduates prefer to keep out of industry."

Two-thirds of 1,007 students at 55 British Universities and polytechnics expect to end up working in commerce and industry. Most were enthusiastic.

But when researchers questioned 3,333 brighter children in 131 English and Welsh secondary schools, they found industry's image "depressingly poor".

Only a third of the children in the biggest survey of its kind in secondary schools said that they would choose to work in industry and commerce.

One of the "biggest turn-offs" was that the work would be "too routine and boring".

The surveys were commissioned by the Committee for Research into Public Attitudes, an ad hoc group of leading industrialists under the chairmanship of Lord Plowden, and conducted by Opinion Research and Communications.

Industry has almost totally failed to tap the streak of idealism in young people by showing the importance of industry in the wealth-creation process.

The undergraduate survey found the main attraction of

industry and commerce is "good money", with job satisfaction, good training and good working conditions of high priority.

The school survey suggests that industry's depressing classroom image may be because it does not sell itself as well as competitors.

Working in a factory came bottom of 13 career options for the bright 13 to 18-year-olds. The order of popularity was advertising, banking, management in industry, office work, computers, law, teaching, medicine, retailing, the Armed Forces, Civil Service, farmwork, and factory work.

Attracting the Brightest Students into Industry. Vols 1 and 2. (ORAC, Committee for Research into Public Attitudes).

Four fined in badger fight case

A badger baited by three terriers was winning when the fight was stopped, a court was told yesterday.

The badger was held down while the three dogs attacked it, but when it was seen to be gaining the advantage it was put into a sack. Mr Neville Whitton, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. All three dogs were injured and one of them later went blind in one eye, he added.

One of the defendants later gave a man £10 to develop photographs of the badger. He took the negatives to a chemist, who made some extra copies and gave them to the police.

David Robert Marriott, aged 20, of Armstrong Road, Mansfield, and Stephen John Raymont, aged 21, of David Street, Kirby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, pleaded guilty to assisting at the fighting or baiting of a badger, digging for a badger and taking a badger without authority.

David Marriott's twin brother, Stephen Paul, of the same address, admitted digging, taking and ill-treating a badger, and David Mark Reast, aged 20, of Beck Crescent, Mansfield, pleaded guilty to taking and ill-treating a badger.

The two Marriotts and Raymont were each fined a total of £300 and Reast was fined a total of £200. They were all ordered to pay £40 costs.

Mr Whitton said that the charges were brought under the Badger Act of 1973. After the baiting the badger was put back into the sack.

Double attack on child abuse

An MP and a judge yesterday called for tougher sentences for child attackers and greater protection for the victims of such abuse.

Judge Voss said at Newcastle-upon-Tyne Crown Court that violent attacks on babies were becoming a daily occurrence and prison terms were the only way to mark the public abhorrence of such crimes.

And in the Commons, Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Salford, accused the Director of Public Prosecutions and the trial judge in the "baby in the drawer" case of letting a barbaric child murderer off.

Mr Dickens said that David Salt, who was jailed for six years for killing his three-month-old daughter Charlene, should have been charged with murder and jailed for life.

On the Salt case, Mr Dickens told MPs: "We do not expect a man charged with the brutal death of a little baby to have received six years and the mother to have walked free out of the back of the court." It was not manslaughter but murder, and not willful ill treatment, but previous bodily harm.

Judge Voss made his remarks when sentencing a man to nine months in jail for causing grievous bodily harm to a year-old girl.

The case was one of three before the courts yesterday. Michael Atkinson, aged 25, of Camlington, Northumberland, admitted slapping Gina Hicks and hitting her head against the side of a cot. She suffered a fractured skull and severe bruises on her face.

In another case, a man who launched a sadistic attack on his girlfriend's daughter, aged three covering her in bites and bruises, and throwing her across a room by her hair, was jailed for two and a half years.

Gloucester Crown Court heard that Kelly Garrard's mother secretly went to her doctor the morning after the attack to report what had happened.

Martin Cull, aged 21, of Lynworth Exchange, Cheltenham, admitted assaulting Kelly causing her actual bodily harm.

In the third case, Liverpool Crown Court heard how a 16-month-old child was beaten by her mother's boyfriend because he could not stand her crying.

Brian Worton, aged 20, of St Helens, Lancashire, admitted three charges of assault causing actual bodily harm to Clare Roberts. He was remanded on bail, for reports.

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Mr Geoffrey Dickens, who criticized judge and DPP.

Tesco to accept credit cards for food sales

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Tesco, the supermarket group, will accept credit cards for all goods in its 366 shops from Monday in time for the pre-Christmas shopping rush. The cards will include Access and Barclaycard, and Tesco believes the move will boost its volume of food sales.

"We have accepted credit cards in our Home & Wear stores for several years," Mr David Reid, Tesco finance director, said, "but research has shown that people are increasingly willing to use credit cards for ordinary food purchases as well."

Out of a turnover last year of £3 billion, about 1 per cent of sales was through credit cards. In the Home & Wear goods, however, credit cards accounted for about 8.5 per cent of sales.

Tesco has no plans to bring in its own in-house credit card such as the one launched by Marks & Spencer earlier this year. "All these different credit cards must be very confusing to customers," Mr Reid said. "We are keeping it simple by accepting only the main cards."

In 1980 Tesco decided not to extend credit cards to all its stores after a pilot scheme showed that few people used cards for food purchases.

Indian activist jailed on arms charges

An Indian political activist who had an ammunition factory at his Oxford home, was jailed for two-and-a-half years at Oxford Crown Court yesterday.

Kuldip Singh Dhoot, aged 36, an unemployed Oxford sociology graduate who came to England in 1965, admitted charges of possessing a firearm and ammunition without a certificate, damaging property, having a firearm while committing a criminal act and trespassing with a firearm.

Judge Leo Clark said he did not know whether Dhoot was eligible for deportation and ordered that the proceedings be drawn to the Home Secretary's attention.

Boy mugger sentenced

An elderly woman died because she refused to give in to a schoolboy mugger, the Central Criminal Court was told.

Miss Sheila Wheatley, aged 74, was only yards from her home when Jason McLean, aged 14, attacked her.

Yesterday McLean, of Melbourne Grove, and his school friend Michael Corne, aged 16, of Coppellstone Road, both East Dulwich, were sentenced to

NUMBER OF CARD HOLDERS (in millions)

Access	8.2
Barclaycard	0.2
In-house store cards	4.7
Trustcard	2.1
American Express	0.8
Diners Club	0.3
Marks & Spencer	0.75
Total	25.05

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF CARD OWNERSHIP (in per cent)

London	25
Midlands	16
Lancashire	13
England	10
Wales/SW	10
East Anglia	8
Yorkshire	8
Tyne Tees	5
Scotland	4

Sources: NOP 1984

Attitudes appear to have been changing rapidly since then as the growing use of M&S cards for food purchases has shown.

Tesco's move reflects the increasing use of credit cards by shoppers. Barclaycard, for example, increased its turnover by 30 per cent in the first nine months of this year to a record £3 billion.



Victoria Waud, aged four, (sitting) was the model for the leaning figure in Robert Thomas's new sculpture at Ealing Broadway shopping centre, London, which was unveiled yesterday by Lord Tony Pandy, Giles Holloman, aged six, (right) stands in front of the figure based on him (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Inquest told of doubt on warrant

By Rupert Morris

Mrs Cynthia Jarrett, whose death during a police search of her home led to the Tottenham riot, may have been already dead when a magistrate issued a warrant for police to search the house, it was claimed at an inquest yesterday.

The allegation was made by Mr Stephen Solley, counsel for the Jarrett family on the third day of the inquest at Hoxsey coroners' court, north London.

He was questioning discrepancies about the time when the search warrant was issued in evidence by Mr Peter Gardiner, a Hoxsey magistrate.

Mr Gardiner said he could not be sure exactly when he had issued the warrant.

Questioned by Dr David Paul, the coroner, Mr Gardiner admitted that when first asked on October 7 by police from the Police Complaints Authority when he had issued the warrant, he said between 6pm and 6.30pm.

In the witness box yesterday he said he believed it was at about 5.45pm but he had "no clear recollection".

Mr Solley said that in view of the events that had followed the jury might find it hard to understand that he could not remember the time.

Mr Gardiner said: "It could have been 5.40 or 6.15."

He said he issued similar warrants frequently and had already issued one that week.

Mr Solley told the court: "By 6 pm Mrs Jarrett had died or was close to death. A search had already begun by 6 pm; indeed, by 5.45."

The coroner interrupted to reject further questioning by counsel for the magistrate and said that the point was not lost on the jury.

He said: "At 5.45 the search had already begun. I shall direct the jury accordingly."

Asked by the coroner how long the policeman had spent in his home in search of the warrant, Mr Gardiner said it was about 10 minutes.

"He didn't rush in and rush out?" the coroner asked.

"He didn't seem to," Mr Gardiner said. "It must have been about 10 minutes."

Police Constable Andrew Fletcher, controller at Tottenham police station, told the court he had not noted down the time at which a Detective Constable Randall had told him that he was going to search the Jarrett family's home in Thorpe Road, Tottenham.

He had not given it in a statement on October 10, and could not remember now.

"Hadn't there been rather dramatic incidents between October 5 and 10?" the coroner asked. "Would this not have been a matter of sufficient importance for you to note the time?"

PC Fletcher said that it had been a busy afternoon and he had not thought to note the time.

"Was there not mention of the authority on which search was being conducted?" the coroner asked. PC Fletcher replied: "No, sir."

"Are you saying he didn't say: 'I'm going to search 25 Thorpe Road because the governor told me, or 'I'm going to search because I've got a search warrant'?" the coroner asked.

"As far as I can recall, he said that he had a search warrant to search the address."

He said he could not remember anyone coming into the control room that afternoon to look for magistrates' telephone numbers.

The hearing continues today.

Detective murder trial

'Masked man attacked me'

Kenneth Noye told a Central Criminal Court jury yesterday how he froze with horror after being confronted by a masked man wearing camouflage gear in the garden of his home.

The builder said that he had no idea the man was Det Con John Fordham who was on an undercover investigation into the £26 million Brink's Mat bullion robbery.

Mr Noye, aged 37, who is charged with murdering Det Con Fordham, said he went into the garden at Hollywood Cottage, West Kingsdown, Kent, after hearing his Rotweiler dogs barking.

As it was evening, he took a torch from his car and picked up a knife which was lying near by. He said it did not occur to him that his dogs were barking at an intruder or police officer.

But suddenly his torch beam caught a masked man about four or five feet in front of him. He could see just eye holes, he said. "I just froze with horror. I thought that was my lot. I was going to be a dead man. I just thought that was it," Mr Noye told the court.

"The man did not say a word. Immediately that I shone my torch and caught his face, he caught me straight across the face with what I thought was a weapon."

"I did not see anything. I think I might have imagined it at the time as you usually relate a masked man with a gun. I received a swinging blow across the eye and front of my face."

"I immediately put my hand up to his face, grabbed his head

and started striking with the knife as fast as I could with all my strength. He came at me - I struck at his front all of five times."

"I was frightened for my life. I had struck him, but it seemed to have no effect, he was overwhelmingly on top of me."

Cross-examined by Mr Nicholas Purnell, for the prosecution, Mr Noye agreed that he had meant to wound the officer.

"I was fighting for my life, obviously I wanted to wound him."

Mr Noye said he began to think the man might be a rapist because he had binoculars and could have been watching. When he saw the man's face and knew he was injured, he told his wife to get an ambulance and come back with a camera.

"Because he said he was SAS I wanted to make sure my account was put right when the public inquiry came. I would show his mask beside him," Mr Noye said that Mr Reader was at his house that night because they were involved in a gold transaction.

Eleven bars of gold were found in his home, but Mr Noye denied that they were stolen. He admitted he was dealing unlawfully in them because they had been smuggled in from abroad without paying VAT.

He denied a claim made on Thursday by Det Chief Supt Brian Boyce that he offered the officer a £1 million bribe.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

He said he pointed the torch

Mugabe's evidence on terror murders

A statement by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe President, was the principal evidence submitted yesterday to an inquest on two English holiday-makers murdered by terrorists in the African bush three years ago.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, recorded verdicts of unlawful killing on Mr James Robertson Greenwell, aged 21, a student, and Mr Martin Hodgson, aged 38, a civil engineer, who were murdered with four other tourists on July 25, 1982, after their tour truck was ambushed on the road to Victoria Falls.

Their bodies remained undiscovered until March this year when two of the terrorists involved were captured and they disclosed the location of shallow graves. Villagers had repeatedly buried the bodies after scavenging attacks by wild dogs and hyenas.

The skeleton of Mr Greenwell, of Llangollen, North Wales, had remained intact but that of Mr Hodgson, of Stourbridge, West Midlands, was incomplete. They were identified through dental records by Dr Iain West, a pathologist, who flew to Zimbabwe at the request of one of the American victims' relatives.

The statement by President Mugabe, provided by the Foreign Office, described how 22 bandits ambushed the nine-member tour party's three-ton truck on July 23, 1982, in the Nysamandlovu area of Zimbabwe, firing several shots and throwing a grenade which failed to detonate.

They released the tour leader with a hand-written note addressed to the president demanding the release of freedom fighters and the immediate return of Zapu property by Zira forces. "If the freedom fighters are not released we will blast these kids," it said.

Three women tourists were told to run away because the group was too big and they would slow progress. The men were walked in circles until they reached a village, which was three days' walking distance away.

On the evening of July 25 the two Englishmen, two Americans and two Australians tried to shout to passing helicopters. "It was this attempt by the tourists coupled with the close proximity of the security forces that decided their fate," the statement said.

The information was provided by the terrorist leader, one of two bandits later captured. The 20 other bandits had been killed in later incidents and all locals involved had been arrested. One terrorist is awaiting execution. "It is the intention to bring to justice all those involved in the dastardly matter", the statement said.



WATERMAN

Polish college principals purged in drive to curb student protests

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Government has dismissed at least four university vice-chancellors and several others may also lose their jobs in the latest drive to quash student discontent.

A tightening of the higher education law last July gave the minister in charge of universities, Professor Benon Mikielewicz, the power to dismiss senior academic officials without formal justification before December 1. Dismissals after that date would have to be supported by evidence of scientific or academic incompetence.

University and Solidarity sources say that four main victims are the rectors - or vice-chancellors - of Poznan, Gdansk and Wrocław universities and of Warsaw Polytechnic. It is understood that the rectors of the engineering

institutes in Radom and Opole may also be dismissed, as well as senior staff in some medical academies.

The motive of the Government is to ensure that higher education does not become a protected corner for the Solidarity opposition and that lecturers' sympathetic to the banned union do not bring up a new generation of student protesters.

The document that has guided the minister is a report by the Supreme Chamber of Control, which has found academic and "socio-political" shortcomings in the Polish university world.

All the dismissed rectors have in common a large degree of popularity with their students.

The rector of Gdansk University, Professor Karol Taylor,

recently made a moving speech at his graveside of one of his students, Marcin Antonowicz, who died after falling from the back of a police van. The Warsaw Polytechnic rector, Professor Wladyslaw Fiedusien, could be seen standing under the banner of his college at the funeral of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity chaplain murdered by secret police.

At Warsaw Polytechnic on Thursday, the students held a rally and yesterday they presented the rector with a mountain of flowers. None of the students had any doubt that their rector was being dismissed for political non-conformity.

The amendments to the higher education law restrict student democracy and give the minister far more discretionary power to interfere with the running of universities.

Communist union papers over cracks with confetti

From Diana Geddes Paris

The hail of confetti, the determined clenched fists and the enthusiastic rendering of the "Red Flag" and "La Marseillaise" at the end of the six-day national congress of the communist-led CGT unions in Paris yesterday could not disguise the fact that the once-powerful union is in serious decline.

Its own statistics show that the CGT has lost 700,000 members in seven years, membership falling by nearly a third to 1.6 million in 1983. Others put its active membership today at fewer than 900,000.

Apart from the independent Force Ouvrière, all of the main French unions have been losing members: the proportion belonging to unions is estimated to have fallen from 20 to 15 per cent in the past decade. But the CGT has suffered more than most.

Since the Communist ministers left the Government in June 1984, the CGT has tried with relatively little success, to step up its action. Its troops simply do not seem willing to follow.

The "general strike" it tried to organize on October 24 (though it avoided that term) was a flop.

M. Henri Krasucki, a member of the politburo of the French Communist Party for 21 years, was re-elected yesterday for a second three-year term as general secretary by the 1,000 delegates at the CGT congress.

Communists gained 95 seats on the union's 125-member national executive committee and half the seats on the 18-member federal bureau.



A kiss of congratulation from Andrés Segovia, the 93-year-old Spanish guitar virtuoso, for Lucero de Tena, who marked 25 years as a top flamenco dancer with a Madrid performance.

Holy City grows too holy for its own good

From Ian Murray

Sixteen new bus shelters have been burnt down or wrecked in Jerusalem in the past few weeks. Today a long-awaited local derby match between the city's top football sides is to be played in a dangerous old stadium. On fashionable French Hill, residents are organizing to stop two synagogues being built.

These very different stories have a common link - the growing number of ultra-Orthodox *haredim* in the city. A survey by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies shows that there are now more than 85,000, 27 per cent of the city population.

The study shows that 12 per cent of *haredim* families in some suburbs have at least seven children, and the need to find accommodation means that the group is spreading out of its traditional areas.

The *haredim* do not accept the authority of the state of Israel, and have taken grave exception to the bus shelters because they carry posters showing women not as decently dressed as the Torah prescribes.

The football has had to be removed from the new 25,000-capacity national stadium at Ramat Gan because of Orthodox objections to its use on the Sabbath. Instead it will be played in the decrepit YMCA stadium.

The study recommends that special *haredim* housing be constructed away from Jerusalem, to stop the Holy City becoming too holy for its own good.

Dutch limit their nuclear role

The Hague (Reuters) - The Netherlands said yesterday that its armed forces would henceforth train and equip for only two wartime nuclear roles, despite strong criticism of the cut by its NATO allies.

The Prime Minister, Mr Ruud Lubbers, said after a Cabinet discussion that the decision on nuclear roles could not be detached from his Government's agreement earlier this month to accept deployment of US cruise missiles in 1988.

"Because we see the two as a single entity, it was the line of the Cabinet that we should stick to our position on both questions."

Mr Lubbers was keen to emphasize that despite the difference of opinions his country was not redefining its membership of NATO.

Nato's critical view was underlined in Brussels earlier by a senior US Nato official, who said of the Dutch plan: "It would have serious negative effects on Nato's nuclear deterrent posture and its credibility."

● WASHINGTON: The United States will not give new instructions to its arms negotiators before a further round of talks begins in Geneva in January, the Arms Control and

Disarmament Agency has said (Michael Binyon writes).

Despite a joint summit call by President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev for "early progress", Mr Kenneth Adelman, the agency's director, suggested the Reagan Administration was now waiting for the Soviet side to make some adjustment.

He said there was no need for the United States to modify its position because the American negotiators had presented a new proposal at the end of the last session just before the summit.

They were awaiting a Soviet response.

Solidarity upset by Brandt's visit

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Solidarity, the banned Polish union, has sent an open letter to the West German Social Democrats accusing them of being more friendly to the Polish Government than Solidarity.

The letter, which has been published here, seems to have been provoked by next week's visit of Herr Willy Brandt, the SPD Chairman. Solidarity is said to be particularly distressed because Herr Brandt is understood to have no plans to meet his fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mr Lech Walesa.

"The present policy of the SPD arouses mistrust in

Behind the letter, there appears to lie a fear of Solidarity's part that West German politicians, because of an overriding interest in good relations with the Soviet Union, are more interested in "stability" in Poland than they are in expressing support for Solidarity and Mr Walesa.

Solidarity does not exempt West German's Christian Democrats from this structure. But it feels that this latest sympathy for the Polish Government is most widespread among Social Democrats.

But it seems clear that Poland will have to struggle for some years to keep up with its interest payments, first because the export target may well prove unrealistic, and secondly because, under rescheduling agreements with Western governments and bankers, the full brunt of debt repayment will start in the 1990s.

Some Western experts are even talking of a second major debt crisis in 1990, but the Poles are not so pessimistic, hoping for new Western credits and membership of the International Monetary Fund to push the economic engine into full gear. Warsaw appears to resist any idea of a moratorium, as advocated by some Latin American nations - on repayments.

If Warsaw were to stop debt servicing for five years it would have an extra \$10 billion with which to revive the economy - but its debt to the West would reach a staggering \$40 billion. To meet such obligations Poland would have to boost its hard-currency exports seven or eight fold to \$35-40 billion a year.

The problem is compounded by a growing debt within the communist bloc itself, rising from 5.6 billion roubles this year to 6.3 billion in 1986. Every area of the economy has been hit.

Factories taxed to pay Western debts

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish Government, faced with the largest foreign debt in Eastern Europe, has decided to impose a special tax on factory assets to help Warsaw to maintain interest payments to the West.

The move has been disclosed in budget proposals put to the Polish Parliament by the Finance Minister, Mr Stanislaw Nieckarz. A new law will establish a fund to be financed by a 2 per cent annual levy on the fixed assets of all factories and plants.

The logic, he explained, is that Poland's debt to the West swelled so rapidly in the 1970s because factories were importing new machinery. Now they must pay the price of these ambitious plans.

Poland's indebtedness will total \$29.2 billion by the end of this year, and about \$30.5 billion next year. Even if Poland reaches its target of a \$1.5 billion trade surplus, which seems unlikely on the basis of the figures for the first eight months, this debt will not be dented.

According to the five-year plan for 1986 to 1990, Poland should earn \$42 billion from exports to the West in that time. About \$31 billion of this is earmarked for buying in grain, machinery and economic essentials, and some \$10 billion towards servicing the foreign debt.

Delhi plea to Carbide chairman

Bhopal (AP) - Indian officials yesterday asked Mr Warren Anderson, chairman of Union Carbide Corporation, to testify before a judicial commission investigating the Bhopal gas leak which killed more than 2,000 people.

Meanwhile, an aspiring vocalist has filed a \$1 million (\$700,000) suit against Union Carbide, claiming the gas leak last December seriously harmed her career.

Miss Maya Chawla, aged 35, said the amount was "in fact, no compensation to the agency that I am undergoing. A life that should have been beautiful and beautiful has become agonizing, all because of the gas."

A student of Indian classical and light music, Miss Chawla was one of the thousands who fled from their homes when methyl isocyanate gas leaked on December 3 from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal.

"My mother was a loving and caring person until that fateful night. Now she is insane and often doesn't even recognize me," Miss Chawla said.

The dream that died of silence

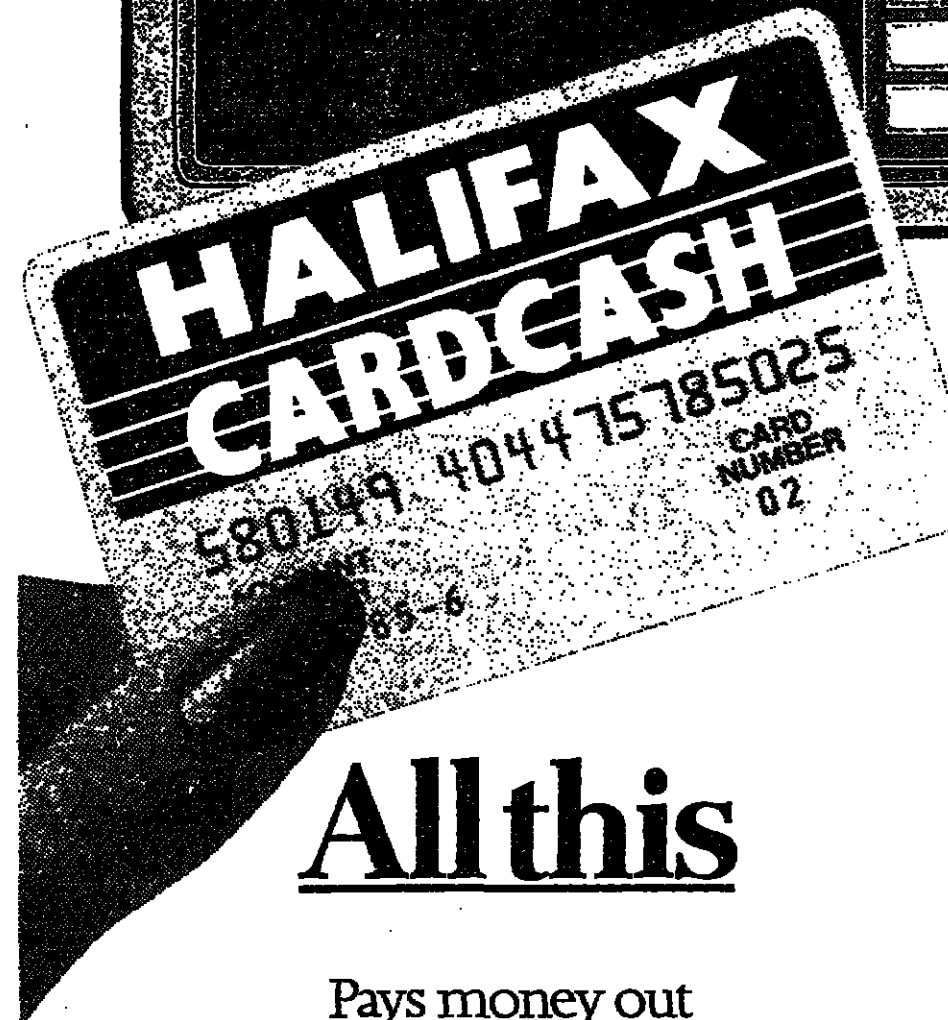
Athens - The Onassis Foundation has revoked its decision to build and equip a \$28 million heart hospital in Athens in exasperation over the lack of response from the Government (Mazo Modiano writes).

A foundation spokesman said: "We wrote to the Health Ministry in May offering to build and equip this model cardio-surgical centre on a site given by the state. The hospital would be handed over to the state. We only begged for a reply by the end of September."

The donors had originally intended to operate the hospital privately but the Socialist Government made the creation of private clinics illegal.

● About-turn: The Government yesterday reversed two important decisions which had evoked strong reactions.

It reinstated two of the three police generals suspended after the killing of a demonstrator during street riots on November 17, and, after journalists had threatened to strike, ordered the resumption of daily press briefings suspended when Mr Costas Laliotis, the Press Under-Secretary, resigned.



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MARKET MAKING IN LUXEMBURG

The European Community summit which was held in Milan in July was not a happy occasion. Once again, the scepticism about the Community which is still present in Britain seemed to gain justification from the sound of unproductive discord coming from the Community's leaders. The angry clash between Prime Minister Craxi of Italy (who was then in the chair) advocating root-and-branch procedural change in the interests of greater unity, and Mrs Thatcher with her more pragmatic approach towards the same end, was precisely the kind of happening which encourages the average citizen to turn from the Community with a shrug of the shoulders. After such an occasion, the idea of a more united Europe seems less like a vision than a mirage and, what is worse, the mirage of a structure which if it were real might be of doubtful benefit to the national interest.

That kind of reaction is understandable but it is wrong. Whatever disenchantment arises from Community wrangles, it is essential to hold firmly to the understanding that the steady dismantling of barriers impeding a genuinely common market in trade and services is in the interests of the citizens of every member state. It is equally important to economize on the Community budget and especially to reduce the cost of wasteful farm support by reforming the Common Agricultural Policy. Such are the right roads to more general prosperity for the Community and also to giving Europe a more effective political voice. Among the Community leaders, there is in principle little disagreement about the ends. The squabbling is about the means.

It is at least reasonable to hope that the atmosphere of the meeting which starts in Luxembourg on Monday will be more constructive. At any rate, the member state in the chair, Luxembourg, is positively working for generally acceptable solutions, which is more than could be said of the aggressive political stance struck by Signor Craxi in Milan.

Since July, there has been a good deal of movement about the way to proceed, and a certain amount of agreement.

That certainly seems to apply to political co-operation. A text for an agreement now exists which is virtually what the British proposed in Milan. It binds the states of the Community to consult each other on foreign policy, but places on

them no obligation to adopt policies that are identical. The reality of the situation is that there will be occasions when some member states take opposed positions, as for instance when the French, the Italians and the Greeks voted against Britain in the United Nations over the Falklands. The same happened when the United Kingdom adopted a different position from other Community states over South Africa. These are the realities of separate statehood, and they cannot be wished away by paper declarations.

Another question of contention where there are perhaps signs of an acceptable compromise is the role of the European Parliament. Some member states, most notably the Belgians and Italians, would like to transfer major power to it. That would not be acceptable to a number of others, including Britain. The presidency at Luxembourg, however, is putting forward the reasonable proposal that if the European Parliament has an absolute majority on a question, then first the Commission and then the Council must formally take that into account. But the Council would still have the last word.

The most difficult question has been and remains 'the reduction of the extent of unanimity voting and the removal of the veto which obstructs progress towards a genuinely internal market.'

Some member states, notably France and Italy, have a taste for proceeding by formal amendment to the Treaty of Rome. To diminish the use of the veto and assist progress towards a more genuinely internal market, they would amend the Treaty specifically to transfer certain matters from a requirement of unanimity to the qualified majority rule. The British preference was for making firm political commitments where possible by heads of government, and then having these implemented.

The British Government still feels some scepticism about whether a formal commitment to unanimity voting is necessary, or indeed whether it would always achieve the desired end. They know that two large states (each with 10 votes) could block change when it suited them. But the Government does seem now to have moved towards the position that if a judicial solution and a textual amendment are wanted, and provided there is agreement on the essence of the matter, it

would not dissent. The question, of course, is how widely this could apply.

Lord Cockfield, the British vice-president of the European Commission, who is responsible for trade, has put forward sweeping proposals for dismantling obstacles to a genuinely free internal Community market. They tread on a great number of vested interests, national or sectional, and there is much opposition to them.

Britain is far from the only member state to have strong reservations about some of them. The Germans, for instance, argue strongly for the right to protect their professional standards and oppose the freedom of Germans to buy insurance outside Germany, the latter being a change which Britain, with its interest in the earnings of the City, would welcome.

The British, on the other hand, insist that in harmonizing trade, exemption must be made for this country's special concern to control the inflow of animals and plants in the interests of preventing the arrival of rabies or the spread of the Colorado beetle. It is on such matters that the arguments will turn and solutions will not be easy. For, in the end, the question is precisely what list of issues is to be transferred to majority voting and how many, and which remain for unanimous decision.

It is, of course, inevitable that a nation's right to define its own genuinely essential interest, and to refuse to compromise, must be retained. There is no disagreement on that, whether it is achieved by the requirement of unanimity formally written into the Treaty of Rome in respect of some matters, or through the Luxembourg convention which enables a state to reserve its own essential interest where voting decisions are formally by qualified majority. The question is where the line should be drawn.

The British view that each state should be obliged to explain and defend its use of the Luxembourg Convention points the right direction for the question as a whole. The use of the veto should be pared down to the genuine essentials, which is nowhere near the case now, and the British Government should apply that test to itself when it considers the Cockfield proposals, which it regards with a somewhat beady eye. Unless the Community becomes the Common Market it purports to be, it will never deliver what it is supposed to deliver.

THE QUICKEST ROAD FOR OKEHAMPTON

The long and winding saga of the Okehampton bypass, the most controversial little stretch of trunk road never to have been built, is about to carve its passage into the House of Lords. If the Government has its way a five mile stretch of road will be built to the south side of Okehampton. The citizens of that town will be free from the perilous crush of heavy lorries, holiday-makers and business travellers will never more experience the 'famous nine mile queues into "tail-back town".'

The proposed route for the new road, however (and this is where the controversy comes in), passes through the northern fringe of the Dartmoor National Park. Not through the moor proper, it must be said, but none the less within the official bounds of one of England's seven most coveted pieces of upland terrain.

A juggernaut of a debate about the Okehampton bypass - as long and crawling and sometimes as dirty as the lorries that are at its heart - has been growling on now for more than 20 years. In 1964 Devon County Council favoured a northern route, a slightly longer one, across medium-grade farmland, in its long-term development plan. In 1979 a protracted public inquiry sat in Okehampton, with the inspector eventually recommending in favour of the southern option.

Because the Department of Transport could offer no suitable alternative parcels of land for public use as a *quid pro quo* for the Compulsory Purchase Orders, objectors had a constitutional recourse to a Parliamentary Joint Committee of three MPs and three peers. This committee duly sat, in April this year, and found by a majority of

four to two against the outcome of the public inquiry. At the end of these proceedings the Okehampton debate has thus become no longer just an argument about the rights and wrongs of a bypass operation, but a greater battle over the legislative processes through which such things are done.

For the Government, the bedrock of justification for pushing through the "Dartmoor" route rests not only in the frustrating prospect of further delay, but also in the provisions of the Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Act of 1945, by means of which the Commons has just passed its Confirming Bill. For the objectors, the rock on which Mr Nicholas Ridley and Mrs Lynda Chalker presently stub their collective toe is a crisp little clause in the now famous circular (4/76) issued by the Department of the Environment nine years ago: "... no new route for long-distance traffic should be constructed through a National Park, or existing road upgraded, unless it has been demonstrated that there is a compelling need which would not be met by any reasonable alternative means". Reasonable. That most apparently mild but intrinsically thorny of English adjectives.

These then are the questions to which the Lords can address themselves next Thursday. Is it "reasonable" to take medium-grade farming land to the north of the town in order to quiet the fears of the conservationist lobby? Is it "reasonable" to assert the primacy of a DoE circular over an Act of Parliament, or indeed the prerogative of a Parliamentary Joint Committee over that of a lengthy, and local, public inquiry? Above all is it "reasonable" to delay the

resolution of a problem of great economic importance to the region in order to test the small print of democracy?

Delay is always a two-headed creature in matters of planning. Some argue that the inordinate passage of time is sufficient reason to bring the issue to its earliest possible conclusion. Others maintain that if the thing is worth doing, it is worth doing properly. The "Southsiders" (that is those in favour of the moorland route) contend that the 1979 inquiry - 96 days at a cost of £3,000 a day - should represent democracy's last word on the subject. According to them the town has already suffered enough. The "Northsiders" argue that once the principle of building such a route in a National Park has been breached there will be nothing to stop a future Transport Secretary who might wish to concrete over the Lake District.

It is a simple fact about major building projects that they will represent the ethos of the time that they were conceived better than that of the time at which they are completed. The choice between the two Okehampton routes neatly mirrors the shifting conflicts between the interests of ecologists and farmers. But constantly to justify changes in planning decisions in terms of shifts in national preoccupations is a recipe for chaos.

The southern route can be begun immediately. The northern route - or rather routes, since there are at least 13 possible options - would require another public inquiry which could easily come to the same conclusion as its predecessor. Okehampton needs the road now. The economy of the West of England needs the road now. Their Lordships should let it have the road now.

timely PhDs along with those, which have not, thus punishing the innocent solely because of their association with the guilty.

Justifying his actions in your columns, Sir Douglas considers that the "strength of response" of his victims indicates the likelihood of their guilt. Here he is adding evidence of guilt from the intensity of protest - a novel notion. He had previously failed to give his victims proper warning of his intended

penalties, nor did he allow them the opportunity to make representations in advance of being placed on a publicly-announced "hit-list".

All this is particularly worrying in the non-elected head of an unaccountable quango. Yours faithfully, JEFFREY JOWELL, Professor of Public Law, University College London, Benham House, Endsleigh Gardens, WC1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Delay in prosecuting fraud denied

From Mr D. G. Williams

Sir, You correctly report (November 29) that I have set up a fraud investigation group in relation to allegations concerning Johnson Matthey Bankers in the circumstances perhaps you will permit me to set aside the convention whereby those in the public service do not respond to criticism by writing to the Press.

It has been suggested several times recently, in the House and out, that the Director has been dragging his feet in the investigation and prosecution of major frauds. Mr Brian Sedgemore declared before the television cameras only last night that the Director had been "reluctant to prosecute frauds".

These imputations are unworthy. Had Mr Sedgemore cared to check his facts he could have learnt, for example, that whereas in November, 1984, the Director had 26 serious fraud cases awaiting trial on indictment, there total today is 27. To suggest that we do not share the concern and frustration of honourable members and their constituents that a number of recent City scandals have not yet been followed by prosecution calumnies all who work in the fraud divisions of this office, each one of whom struggles with a quite monstrous case load. Failure to prosecute is due neither to lack of will nor lack of determination, but to lack of evidence.

In one of his kinder recent epithets Mr Sedgemore described

the DPP as "confused". Let me reassure him that we clearly recognise fraud as a significant, destructive factor in our national life. It gives birth to a deep and corrosive cynicism.

As it flourishes, honesty is less and less practised because less and less expected. Confidence is undermined, not only in our great financial institutions, but in the probity of all who have something to purvey, whether it be goods, or services, or news, or even a political point of view. It is divisive in terms of class because where the law enforcement agencies fail - for whatever compelling reason - to prosecute those whose conduct has been demonstrably and grossly dishonest, the cry goes up that "there is one law for them and another for us".

The resources allocated to stamping out fraud are not for us to determine, but no one should doubt our seriousness of purpose. The howsoever Mr Sedgemore has evidence of fraud (whether "by the bucket-full" as he last night expressed it, or in the rather more hygienic documentary form) the police will be more than anxious to examine it.

Yours faithfully, DOIRAN WILLIAMS, Principal Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Controller Fraud Investigation Group, Director of Public Prosecutions, 4-12 Queen Ann's Gate, SW1, November 29.

English at Cambridge

From the Master of Emmanuel College

Sir, Following your recent diagnosis of "apathy" in the Cambridge English faculty, your readers may be interested in some facts.

A recent study shows that the current 35 university officers of the faculty have in the past five years, produced 35 substantial books and several hundred essays, reviews, introductions to editions, broadcasts, etc. At least two regular substantial journals are edited by university officers of the faculty.

We have three Fellows of the British Academy. Members of the faculty have been awarded several literary prizes and honorary degrees. Amongst us we number some distinguished novelists and poets who have also published valuable criticism and whose names are well known.

This level of achievement cannot, I venture to believe, be outdone by many other faculties or departments of English. If we were to add the work of those fellows of colleges and other persons not paid by the university but who, to our benefit, are part of the general faculty, the total would be much greater.

Impact of the law

From Mr Michael Rubinstein

Sir, Why have you allowed your cartoonist, Graham Philpot, to perpetuate the media fiction that our judges, like their United States counterparts, keep order with a gavel? Yesterday (November 26) it seemed that the judges depicted in the cartoon, published with the first of Peter Evans's two articles about the role of judges and magistrates in criminal cases, were expected to wield monster mallets to drive convicted persons into the ground like Monty Python tent pegs.

Today's cartoon has a giant gavel used by a magistrate to try to hit the bell, as a test of his strength on a fairground contrivance, with a policeman literally "bound over". Mixing metaphors like this is bad enough, but the portrayal of a gavel to keep order in court on this side of the Atlantic is a myth to be resisted, or failing that to be thumped with a suitable implement wherever it pops up. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN, Rubinstein Callingham, solicitors, 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, WCI, November 27.

Smoking and health

From the Chairman of Wycombe Health Authority

Sir, Your leading article, "The biggest kill" (November 28) was welcome and encouraging. The ministers who are renegotiating the agreement on advertising with the tobacco companies should be fortified by your support for a total ban. They should see that a substantial reduction in advertising and sponsorship is brought about immediately. Legislation will ultimately be needed.

The Government has promised a safe future for the National Health Service. It should now promise action which will greatly benefit the nation's future health. Yours faithfully, J. E. CAMP, Chairman, Wycombe Health Authority, Oakengrove, Shrubbery Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Shades of meaning

From Dr L. Solyman

Sir, Professor Martin (feature, November 22) claims that most of the eminent sociologists of the immediate past were right wing. That seems to me a poor recommendation for sociology.

If, by reading a representative sample of his work, a sociologist's position, he had become apparent to me, I would maintain, sociology is not an academic discipline. I have never heard of left-wing or right-wing sociologists. Yours faithfully, L. SOLYMAN, Fellow in Engineering, Brunel College, Oxford.

Besides the maintenance of a high level of personal literary research and production of many different kinds, members of the faculty are also continuously busy with supervising, lecturing to and examining about 650 undergraduates anxious to learn, and over a hundred PhD students.

The variety of offerings is rich and complex, but the English course, involving two years of study of English literature, followed by a third year of more focused work, is philosophically and educationally coherent. Within this framework, there is, as with all living subjects, a steady process of consultation, planning, modifications, and development.

This is a strange example of apathy. Finally, I should add that I have been chairman of the faculty board for the last 15 months and there is no committee amongst the many which I have chaired in this university over the past 10 years whose members have been more cooperative, hardworking and fair-minded.

Yours faithfully, DEREK BREWER, Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Children in care

From Mr Nigel H. Harris

Sir, The case of Gemma Hartwell just concluded (report, November 19) illustrates only too clearly, as with so many recent cases, that the death could have been prevented.

It is simply not an excuse to say that a balance has to be struck between the rights of the parents and the child. When will social workers and others learn that parents who have deliberately injured their child are incurable and liable to repeat the assault on the same or another child? Parents who have physically and mentally harmed their children have forfeited all their rights.

The only safeguard is that once a child has been removed to a place of safety the arrangement must be permanent and a trial or experiment with a child's life or limb must never be allowed. It is surely better to keep one or two children in care unnecessarily than to run the risk of one being subjected to torture and death.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL H. HARRIS, 72 Harley Street, W1, November 20.

Doctor's dilemma

From Dr A. R. Rogers

Sir, Dr Johnson's sketch (November 28) reporting his 15-year-old patient who denied contraception and became pregnant needs to be offset against a case of my own.

Sarah, aged 14, was brought to my surgery by her mother, who had learnt that her daughter was having intercourse and her mother requested she be given contraception. I explained to both of them that such contraception is not very effective and that if pregnancy was to be avoided intercourse should cease.

Mother then agreed that a new approach to caring for Sarah would have to start and it did. Sarah was not pleased with the result; her 25-year-old boy friend was cautioned and left her.

Two months ago Sarah, now aged 17, came to see me again. She wanted contraception, which I could not deny her, and when I reminded her of her last request for contraception she thought it was ridiculous that one so young could have been allowed to behave in such a fashion.

There is a lot more care that a doctor can offer than contraception.

Yours faithfully, ADRIAN ROGERS, 1 Victoria Park Road, St Leonards, Devon.

From Dr John Mantle

Sir, Unlike my colleague, Dr Johnson, I can describe how I feel. It is Tracey's fault. It is John's fault. It is not Mrs Gillick's fault.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MANTLE, Edbrook Farm, Hornhill, Cannington, Bridgewater, Somerset.

Tighter control on farm drugs

From Mr Desmond Hopwood

Sir, John Young is to be commended for his two timely articles (November 18, 19) on drugs illegally administered to livestock. A more serious problem than vets under pressure to prescribe antibiotics is the delicate position of less experienced and unqualified lay staff when the practice vets are all away visiting their farmer clients.

Only this year I have personally witnessed lay staff under verbal pressure from farmers to give out prescription drugs without a prescription. In one instance the older, experienced woman politely but firmly told the farmer he would have to see or phone the vet himself first to get the necessary authorisation. She made it clear she did not have the authority to make the sale. In the other case a young woman, who was a veterinary student, agreed that "Mr X would not really mind" - besides, added the farmer, "even the Government doesn't really know about it; it was not a prescription drug until a few weeks ago".

I feel the National Farmers' Union could do more to educate its members on this issue. They currently take too passive an attitude. In fairness to farmers, they frequently resent paying current practice prices for prescription drugs. They are not helped by the current structure of veterinary practices which, in effect, is a network of very small businesses with only limited purchasing power.

Solutions could be the formation of practice buying groups, or a more active marketing role undertaken by the specialist veterinary wholesaler organisations.

Finally, the Pharmaceutical Society need more State assistance to extend their already overworked inspectorate. Unscrupulous farmers know there is a good chance that black market dealings will never be uncovered.

Yours faithfully, DESMOND HOPWOOD, University of Lancaster,

Department of Management and Organisation, Bailrigg, Lancaster, November 19.

Memorable past

From Sir James Richards

Sir, In today's paper (November 22) you publish a list of the British monuments and sites the Minister for the Environment proposes to submit to the World Heritage Convention. It is, on the whole, an acceptable list, except for the too small attention it pays to the achievements of the Industrial Revolution, in which Britain led the world.

It includes a couple of Telford's suspension bridges, Brunel's Great Britain steamship and the Iron-bridge gorge but, most deplorably, no railway buildings whatever. May I suggest that to be added to the list: the Settle-Carlisle railway, a wonderful engineering feat with its sequence of spectacular viaducts passing through some of the grandest scenery in Britain; a major railway station (preferably one of those that pioneered the arched iron roof, such as Newcastle Central or York); the Paddington terminus; the Forth Bridge; and Stephenson's Royal Border Bridge at Berwick-on-Tweed.

Such structures are the true memorials of one of the most creative periods in British history.

Yours faithfully, J. M. RICHARDS, 29 Fawcett Street, SW10, November 22.

Decline of Rugby

From the Headmaster of St George's School, Harpenden

Sir, I returned home from watching three of my school Rugby teams play to read your leader (November 16) "Rugby after school".

I am headmaster of a voluntary aided comprehensive school where Rugby flourishes. We have had two boys playing for England at under-16 level in recent years as well as others who have represented the county at different age levels.

Every Saturday this term we have turned out six sides. There is great enthusiasm for the game led by a dedicated PE staff.

Our greatest worry is over the pressure on the boys (and the girls who play lacrosse) to take a Saturday job. The genuine conflict of loyalty to a team and a desire to make extra pocket money is a growing problem and will not go away. But while Rugby may be under threat in some areas, I have to say our fixture list includes both independent and State schools, and in virtually all instances matches have been played. The scene is not all gloomy!

Yours sincerely, J. D. OGILVIE, Headmaster, St George's School, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Museum charges

From Professor Emeritus Sir Ernst Gombrich, FBA

Sir, Mr Simon Hornby's arguments (November 26) in favour of our national museums selling some of their holdings rest on a false analogy with private art collections.

These great depositories have more in common with the famous archives and libraries of the civilized world, where any attempt to dispose of allegedly "second rate" documents or books would clearly risk defeating the purpose which they are intended to serve.

Yours etc, ERNST GOMBRICH, 19 Briardale Gardens, NW3, November 23.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 30 1922

The Times had acquired sole rights throughout the world for news, articles and photographs of the tomb of Tutankhamun's tomb, an arrangement denounced by other newspapers. It was unfortunate that on the official opening of the inner chamber on February 17, 1923, the paper was unaccountably scooped. Our Correspondent was Arthur Morten.

AN EGYPTIAN TREASURE.

GREAT FIND AT THEBES.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

VALENTINE OF THE TIMES King (by runner to Luxor), Nov. 28.

This afternoon Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Howard Carter revealed to a large company what promises to be the most sensational Egyptological discovery of the century. The find consists of, among other objects, the funeral paraphernalia of the Egyptian King Tutankhamun, one of the famous heretic kings of the Eighteenth Dynasty, who reverted to Amen worship. Little is known of the later kings, including Tutankhamun, and the discovery should add largely to our knowledge of this period, and of the great city of Thebes-Amarna, which was founded in the fifteenth century B.C. by Amenhotep IV., the first of the heretic kings.

The remarkable discovery announced today is the reward of patience, perseverance, and practicality. For nearly sixteen years Lord Carnarvon, with the assistance of Mr. Howard Carter, has been carrying out excavations on that part of the site of the ancient Thebes situated on the west bank of the Nile at Luxor. ...

The search was continued systematically, and at last the dogged perseverance of Mr. Carter, his thoroughness, above all his fair, were rewarded by the discovery, where the Royal necropolis of the Theban Empire was situated, directly below the tomb of Rameses VI., of what looked like a cache. Mr. Carter, who had been at the tomb since the discovery of the cache, and telegraphed to Lord Carnarvon, who at once came out from England.

By this time news of the find had got about. The whole of Luxor, where every one down to the smallest urchin is an antiquity hunter, was agog. Great was the speculation as to the contents of the contents of the chambers - for there are more than one - as they stood outside. The sealed outer door was carefully opened: then a way was cleared down some sixteen steps along a passage of about 25 ft. The door to the outer door had been, and, as on the outer door, there were traces of relocking. With difficulty an entrance was effected, and when at last the excavators managed to squeeze their way in an extraordinary sight met their eyes, one that they could scarcely credit.

THE TREASURE WITHIN.

There was a stool of ebony inlaid with ivory, with the most delicately carved duck's feet; also a stool of fine workmanship. Beneath one of the couches was the State Throne of King Tutankhamun, probably one of the most beautiful objects of art ever discovered. There was also a heavily gilt chair, with portraits of the King and Queen, the whole encrusted with turquoise, cornelian, lapis, and other semi-precious stones.

There were also four chariots, the sides of which were encrusted with semi-precious stones and rich gold decoration. These were dismantled, with a chariot's apron of leopard's skin hanging over the seat.

A further chamber revealed an indescribable state of confusion. Here furniture, gold beds, exquisite boxes and alabaster vases similar to those found in the first chamber were piled high one on top of the other, so closely packed that it has been impossible to get inside yet.

What adds interest to this discovery is that there is still yet a third sealed chamber, which, significantly, the two figures of the king discovered are guarding, and which may possibly turn out to be the actual tomb of King Tutankhamun, with members of the heretic's family buried with him.

Jerusalem's landmark

From the Mayor of Jerusalem

Sir, Your article of November 2, concerning Notre Dame, in Jerusalem, repeats an erroneously reported statement attributed to me in the Israeli Press.

In helping the Vatican reacquire the building and according to their wish to continue to possess this landmark significant for them, I was prompted by considerations of trying to build good will and understanding with the Church in Jerusalem. I was never as naive as to suppose that this gesture far-reaching political consequences.

Yours etc, TEDDY KOLLEK, Town Hall, Yafa Road, Jerusalem, Israel.

Too quick off the mark

From Mr John Hester

Sir, We decided to save money this year and send our Christmas cards by surface mail to friends and relatives overseas. After consulting the Post Office leaflet we sent them on the recommended dates for Christmas delivery.

To our surprise the Post Office sent every one of them by air and our cards arrived in early December. Indeed, cards sent at surface rates reached Atlanta, USA, in four days, when normal airmail delivery takes seven to 10 days!

When I told a local Post Office what had happened, I heard a muttered aside as I left: "They're complaining our deliveries are too fast now."

Yours faithfully, JOHN HESTER, 22 Estelle Road, Hampstead, NW3, November 23.

THE ARTS

مكتبة الفن

Last night's television
Across the well-ploughed fields

The Second World War is a well-ploughed field as far as television is concerned, but it seems it cannot be ploughed enough.

Last night The Home Movie Front (BBC2) looked at life under the Nazis in the German town of Beckum through home movies dating from the period and contemporary witnesses who survived it.

Did the German population welcome the National Socialist regime or were they coerced into obeying its dogmas? As the home movies in the programme were largely of civilian events connected with the Nazis, this was the question to which the programme addressed itself.

The black and white archive material showed a generally contented and happy-looking population but balancing this were the contemporary witnesses with their guilty anecdotes about how they were forced to comply because they feared for their lives.

At the end it was the powerful testimonials of the witnesses which seemed the more credible. The German people were Nazis, one concluded, because the gun was to their head.

This is an interpretation of history and there is no harm in expressing it. But, with a subject as important as why a European democracy became a dictatorship and remained such, for a programme not to state that its views are partial is simply not good enough.

A viewpoint on television today can become a truth tomorrow and it would be wrong that the new version of German history expressed here, which is that the Germans were Nazis out of fear and ignorance rather than choice, should be accepted without fierce debate.

Adultery is as well-ploughed a subject as the Second World War. The documentary Thou Shalt Not (second in Channel 4's hybrid series *Adultery*) attempted to put the whole issue in an historical context. In effect this meant giving a compressed version of the history of women from Eve to today, for it was the programme-makers' view that infidelity and the status of women are inextricably linked.

As is invariably the case with speeded-up history, one was left feeling cheated and manipulated but the experts interviewed, particularly Cynthia Payne and Anna Reburn, made excellent sense. Miss Reburn's answer to the question "Why adultery?" was that managing a marriage was much, much harder.

Carlo Gebler

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Long Distance Form: an approval of *The South Bank Show* by Mark Lawson

The art of Melvyn's magic touch



Melvyn Bragg: Head Boy

Seven years ago, on a Saturday night, Melvyn Bragg ("Beautiful in a new three-piece suit" - *The Observer*) introduced London Weekend Television's *The South Bank Show*, a network arts programme which was dismissed by cynics as commercial television's latest lunge at culture.

Tomorrow night the programme reaches its 213th edition, with a profile of playwright Peter Shaffer, in a week when *The South Bank Show* won two gold medals at the International Film and Television Festival in New York.

In the field of the arts, always a cactus-patch for programmers, Bragg's brainchild (which he edits as well as presents) has proved that, at the right extent or brevity, with intelligent and intelligent enthusiasm of presentation, the off-putting can be made accessible. After several traumas and false starts, the BBC arts show *Omnibus* achieved great success with an up-tempo, single-subject style clearly influenced by Bragg's seven years of success.

The South Bank Show retains its original central strength of healthy and hectic eclecticism. The mockers

flocked when Bragg's opening oration in 1978 promised "Ted Hughes's latest poem and Ken Dodd's latest performance... to Abu Dhabi with Edna O'Brien!". Bragg's gift for simplification may have oversteered itself but the scope of inquiry was snappily mapped out. The show has taken subjects from a predictable list of disciplines - theatre, music, dance, television, cinema, literature - but within each discipline, has played at a range of styles - musicians, Olivier Messiaen, Paul McCartney, Weather Report; playwrights, Peter Shaffer, David Mamet, Trevor Griffiths; actors, Max Wall, Lord Olivier, Michael Crawford.

With a duty to both the backlist and the crazes of the day, *The South Bank Show* tests existing prejudices and guides the limelight on to hazier stages: I have the ticket stubs and Foyles receipts to prove it.

Whereas the BBC divides its Arts coverage between a mainstream populist programme (*Omnibus*) and a tributary for "difficult" films (*Arena*), *The South Bank Show* most effectively shelters Sir Alec Guinness and the avant-garde dancer Karole

Armitage beneath the same umbrella. The key to this achievement is Melvyn Bragg himself. A godsend to impressionists and after-dinner literary wits, he is, for all his tics and occasional idiosyncrasies, one of television's best presenters. His programme is a product of the inquisitive-kid school of criticism, of which Bragg is Head Boy: the keynote is simplicity and accessibility - The What, Why and How.

It does not always work - Harold Pinter and Francis Bacon both played the "what me, gov?" demystification trick to slip through the Bragg net unexposed - but the presence of Bragg, an affable chap, all hair, teeth and suntan, gives a focus to each show. A beaming policeman for those lost in the literary landscape to approach, the presenter is the viewer's advocate, scratching his head at Peter Maxwell Davies at about the same time as we do.

As the ITV Sunday night diet becomes ever heavier with game shows and second-class drama, *The South Bank Show* remains, still shining, like a diamond on a silage heap.

Radio
Well-timed troubles

Sometimes I suspect the radio schedulers of extra-sensory perception. How else did they know to place both *Remembering* (Radio 4, Sunday and Friday; producer Peter Kavanagh) and *The Queen's Arms* (Radio 4, Monday; director Robert Cooper) so as to coincide with the ructions over the Hillsborough agreement?

In Robert Glendinning's documentary, the Ulster writer returned to the scenes of his days at school and university in the 1950s with the specific and again well-timed intention of looking at the ways in which the Irish on both sides of the border remember the dead of two world wars.

First we went to his preparatory school, whose sections had been and still are named after celebrated British admirals. Then on to Campbell College and a recent Armistice commemoration with a pipe organ of the Combined Cadet Force marching solemnly through the buildings of the school while the assembled staff and boys in chapel heard his lament fade away down distant corridors and come back again. It made the skin prickle and perhaps it should, but what we were given of the commemorative address took me back by its tone and sentiments very nearly 50 years.

Last we went to Trinity College, Dublin, to which many northerners once repaired. As recently as 1959 an Armistice Day service in that city's St Patrick's Cathedral ended with an impromptu singing of "God Save the Queen". The second of these things no longer happens, the first is no longer common and indeed Mr Glendinning had reason to regret that he had come south wearing his Flinders poppy. Though there is still an anthemless commemorative service, the Lutyens memorial to the thousands upon thousands of Irishmen who died in 1914-18 is undedicated and abandoned.

A widespread feeling seems

to be that the poor fellows were misled - though how many in the Republic go as far as Sean Lemass's daughter, quoted here in a letter to a newspaper echoing her father's opinion that it was more humane to murder people in a gas-chamber than to send in the Black and Tans?

Alan Berrie's play with its cleverly double-edged title, *The Queen's Arms*, refers both to a pub fallen on hard times and to bygone British military pride. Sam Gibson (Joss Ackland) is both the licensee and a veteran of Arrhen and equally demoralized in both capacities. Business is bad, the district has already lain down and died and so, in Sam's opinion, has the Old Country. It is only thanks to Irish Denis (Dermot Crowley) that the pub and its landlord keep going at all.

Then along comes the Falklands War and Sam experiences both moral and physical rearmament. But how will the faithful, gentle Denis take it all? Like a black mist, an expectation forms among the now thriving clientele and his employers that he is not quite on their side. And of course partly in response to this, partly because he is Irish born and bred and cannot share in British tribalism.

In the aftermath of the victory, Sam stares at Denis in astonishment: "You're not British... I'm only really hearing you for the first time... You talk like a Paddy..."

Mr Berrie's play, superbly acted and directed, not only captured the authentic sound of London pub life but subtly identified and held up for our inspection much that is true about British attitudes to the Irish. Under a thin coating of indifference, or on a good day tolerance, we nurture a deep-rooted, visceral resentment and distrust that also has its origins in history.

David Wade

Dance
Step in the wrong directionGiselle
Covent Garden

For its new production of *Giselle*, premiered at Covent Garden on Thursday night, the Royal Ballet has turned again to Peter Wright, who has previously staged it for both Royal Ballet companies and for nine other companies in Germany, Holland and north and south America. All those were variants on his first (and best) treatment of the ballet for Stuttgart in 1966. This time he has rethought the production more substantially and is working with a different designer, John Macfarlane.

From someone who has done such splendidly imaginative settings for many modern ballets, Macfarlane's contribution is a sad disappointment, especially in the first act. It seems that *Giselle* lives in a timber mill surrounded by telegraph poles. In spite of a vast clutter of objects all around them, her mother's cottage and Albrecht's hut look like film sets, nothing but facade. Setting and costumes alike are mostly in shades of brown so that details of the action get lost in one gloomy pool of colour.

Act Two is visually better: the setting still primarily browns, but with great uprooted trees making *Giselle*'s hugger-mugger burial place sinister, and something about the painting (and Jennifer Tipton's lighting) that gives a faint reminiscence of Delacroix. The ghosts are in long, tight-waisted, flimsy, glittery frocks, an acceptable variant on the traditional romantic dresses.



Lesley Collier and Stephen Jefferies

The score, this time is the reconstruction of Adam's original composition (1841) made for the Paris Opéra in 1924 by Henri Busser. It sounds sometimes harsher than more familiar versions; not a bad thing perhaps. Busser included also long-established interpolations of music by Burgmüller and (probably) Minkus. A programme note says that he re-ordered some numbers in Act One, but does not record whether it was this which led Wright to adapt a different sequence for some of the action.

The changes involve putting the vintage celebrations all before the Duke's hunting party arrives; that permits Hilarión to expose Albrecht's duplicity more quickly once he gets evidence. But the evidence is pretty shaky, involving a mistaken belief that Albrecht's sword would bear his future father-in-law's coat of arms (this error, endemic in Wright's productions, arises from a misreading of the old Bolshoi staging).

But motivation is not a strong point; I cannot believe, for instance, that characters as inarticulate as Derek Rencher's Duke or as snappy as Genesia Rosato's Bathilde would stay around to watch *Giselle* once she had insulted them. Neither do I understand why Albrecht in Act Two needs a small hand-held crucifix to protect him in the eyes immediately, she admits, "I've crept up."

Choreographically the staging is mostly good; it follows the Petipa tradition although with some fancy touches added, notably for *Giselle* in Act Two; Ashton's solo for a peasant girl is restored, and an only partly familiar solo for Myrthe. Stylistically there are some dodgy passages, peasants dancing grandly as Capulets at their ball, and a too modern-looking post-feminist line-up of Willis menacing Hilarión.

The dedication of this opening performance to Dame Alicia Markova, the Royal Ballet's first *Giselle*, is unfortunately a reminder that it is quite a while since Covent Garden had an outstanding interpreter of the title role. Lesley Collier, the first of several casts and the only familiar one, is honest, sincere but muted in the part.

Stephen Jefferies makes a more overwhelming Albrecht, especially in the growing terror he conveys through the second act. The only other performance of distinction was Dairine Eyden's cool but impassioned Myrthe. Otherwise, sound mediocrity reigned except for one blatantly miscast principal.

John Percival

Love in a London bookshop



Unpredictability, reckons Harriet Walker (above), is part of her armoury as an actress. Her latest role is in the Pinter-scripted film *Turtle Diary*, which opened in London this week. Interview by Nicholas Shakespeare

Her family were the Walters who started *The Times* yet Harriet Walker has always had trouble with her name. In print her credits have ranged from Walker and Warner to Winters. "I've never soaked people in the eyes immediately," she admits. "I've crept up."

This year she has finally come upon us - with her impressive performance as Frances, the kidnapped wife, in Channel 4's series *The Price*, as the mad cripple in Yuri Lyubimov's production of *The Possessed* and this week, with the opening of *Turtle Diary*, her first film role.

She has cherished her elusiveness. Even her age is hard to gauge. At 35 she has the flatish wide-eyed face of a young girl pressed to the window.

"I really do think I'm one of the few people I know who haven't been pigeon-holed."

Rarely stressed is the variety of her roles and the mediums in which she has worked - from political fringe theatre and the RSC to radio and television.

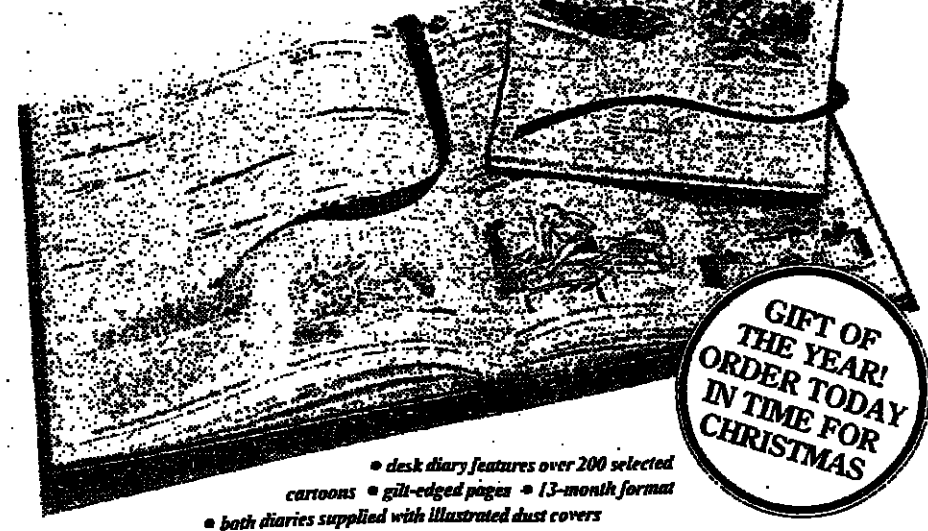
"I like being elusive because it gives the opportunity to surprise. Unpredictability is part of my armoury. Having said that I can't be pigeon-holed I'll probably now always play people in bookshops." She refers to the part in *Turtle Diary*, Harold Pinter's charming, comic adaptation of Russell Hoban's novel, the first of his projects with a happy ending.

In it she plays the Sloane 24-year-old assistant who is fascinated into an affair with Ben Kingsley, a colleague in the

same bookshop. It is, she reckons, the nearest she has come to playing herself. "I don't have to put on a funny voice or dress differently." Not only does she have the same name as her character, she also lives in the part of Fulham where her romance with Kingsley takes place. Her mouth hangs open. "I epitomize the confidence and arrogance of young people who haven't known anything but relative success."

Certainly her own background might have prepared her for this. The daughter of a diplomat-turned-lawyer - "I bet you he was a spy", she giggles - Harriet Walker was brought up not expecting to earn her living. After Cranbourne Chase she became a debutante, rejected to a slice of cake and bowed to a world of Jardine Johnnies for the stage; not any stage, but the Marxist platforms of the 7-84 company. In the five years she toured with them she learnt how to act, in the same play, a racehorse owner, a DHSS clerk, a factory worker and a drunkard.

While the Harriet of *Turtle Diary* might be close to the former debutante of real life, Harriet Walker, true to her unpredictable form, has also been performing on the boards in Howard Baker's *The Castle*. "It is something as far away from me as I've ever done" - namely a ruthless, loud-mouthed, lesbian witch. She has not let her parents come to see her. "I know they'd hate it. I love it." She grins like a child with a plateful of cakes. "Such a lot to latch on to."

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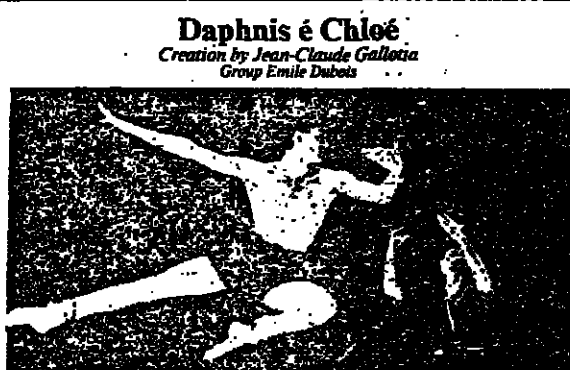
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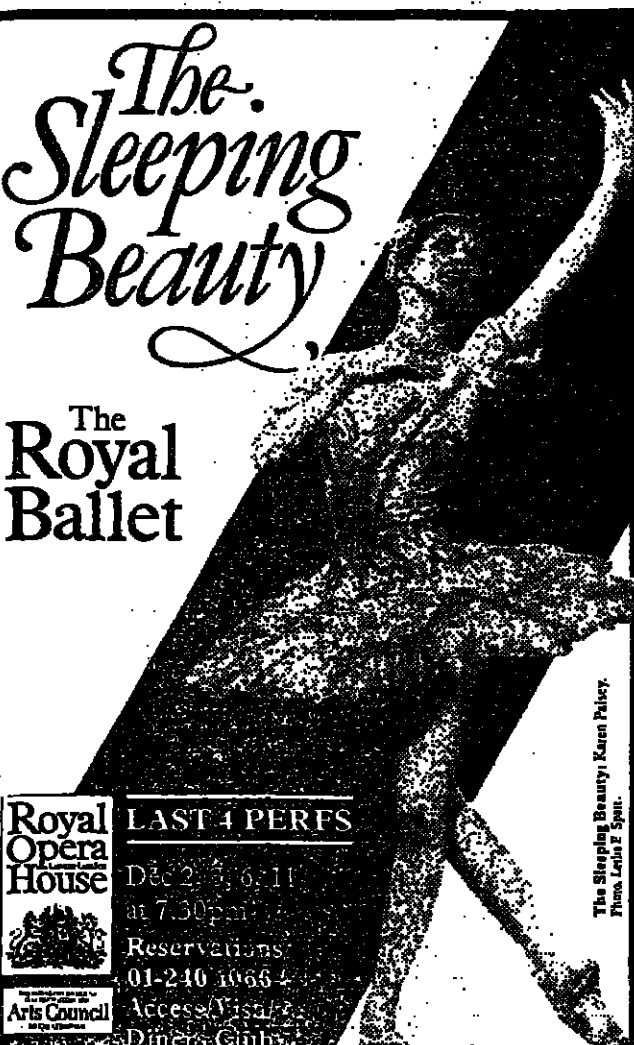
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Daphnis et Chloé
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Group Emile Dubois

INSTITUTE FRANÇAISE
17 Queensberry Place, London, SW7. Tel: 01-589 6211
Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December, 1985, at 8 pm
All seats £4 (£3 for Members)

The Sleeping Beauty
The Royal Ballet

LAST 4 PERFS
Dec 2, 3, 6, 11
at 7.30 pm
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Access 01-240 1066
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Visit the grotto
where Aphrodite bathed,
and fall in love with Paphos.

Near the timeless fishing port of Paphos in Cyprus is the tiny grotto of Fontana Amorosa where Aphrodite is said to have bathed in the pool formed by a perennial spring.

The naming of the grotto is highly appropriate, because to visit Paphos is to fall in love with a region whose unspoilt beauty and historical interest almost beggar description.

You can still see some of the finest mosaics in the Mediterranean depicting the activities of the gods of Ancient Greece.

You can still see the ancient castle watching over the harbour, the Tombs of the Kings and Chryssopolitissa Basilica, the largest early Christian Basilica on the island.

Experiences like these come to life on a Swan Hellenic cruise. Each location is doubly enjoyable because we put it in its historical perspective.

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Part of the growing world of P&O.A voyage through
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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your right share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Your gains or loss
DRAPERY AND STORES		
1	Empire Stores	
2	Marika & Spencer	
3	Rainers (Jewellers)	
4	Holins	
5	Combined English	
6	Dixon Gp	
7	Woolworth	
8	Ladies Pride	
9	Peters Stores	
10	Our Price	
INDUSTRIALS S-Z		
11	Starling Ind	
12	Whesoe	
13	Stottish & Pitt	
14	Vickers	
15	Tate	
16	Woolhead	
17	Victor Products	
18	Triplex	
19	Simon Eng	
20	Watson (R Katvin)	
INDUSTRIALS A-D		
21	Birchid Quincest	
22	Crest Nicholson	
23	DFCE	
24	Crown House	
25	Boschman	
26	Boswell	
27	Davy	
28	Burgess	
29	Bullough	
30	Cape Ind	
ELECTRICALS		
31	Faroell Elect	
32	VG Instruments	
33	First Castle Elec	
34	Thorn EMi	
35	Racal Elect	
36	Levin	
37	Cip Gp	
38	Oceanics	
39	Volant	
40	BICC	
© Times Newspapers Limited Your Daily Total		

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
125.00	124.00	Barclays Bank	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110.00	109.00	British Airways	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90.00	89.00	British Petroleum	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80.00	79.00	British Overseas Airways	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.00	69.00	British Airways	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60.00	59.00	British Airways	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50.00	49.00	British Airways	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.00	39.00	British Airways	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.00	29.00	British Airways	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.00	19.00	British Airways	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.00	9.00	British Airways	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	British Airways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
125.00	124.00	Barclays Bank	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110.00	109.00	British Airways	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90.00	89.00	British Petroleum	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80.00	79.00	British Overseas Airways	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.00	69.00	British Airways	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60.00	59.00	British Airways	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50.00	49.00	British Airways	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.00	39.00	British Airways	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.00	29.00	British Airways	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.00	19.00	British Airways	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.00	9.00	British Airways	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	British Airways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
125.00	124.00	Barclays Bank	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110.00	109.00	British Airways	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90.00	89.00	British Petroleum	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80.00	79.00	British Overseas Airways	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.00	69.00	British Airways	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60.00	59.00	British Airways	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50.00	49.00	British Airways	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.00	39.00	British Airways	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.00	29.00	British Airways	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.00	19.00	British Airways	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.00	9.00	British Airways	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	British Airways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED

Prospective real redemption yield on projected inflation rate (RPI) of (a) 5% and (b) 10%

BANKS DISCOUNT HP						
125.00	124.00	Barclays Bank	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110.00	109.00	British Airways	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90.00	89.00	British Petroleum	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80.00	79.00	British Overseas Airways	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.00	69.00	British Airways	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60.00	59.00	British Airways	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50.00	49.00	British Airways	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.00	39.00	British Airways	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.00	29.00	British Airways	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.00	19.00	British Airways	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.00	9.00	British Airways	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	British Airways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ELECTRICALS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
125.00	124.00	Barclays Bank	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110.00	109.00	British Airways	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90.00	89.00	British Petroleum	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80.00	79.00	British Overseas Airways	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.00	69.00	British Airways	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60.00	59.00	British Airways	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50.00	49.00	British Airways	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.00	39.00	British Airways	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.00	29.00	British Airways	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.00	19.00	British Airways	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.00	9.00	British Airways	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	British Airways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Market firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 25. Dealings End, Dec 6. Contango Day, Dec 9. Settlement Day, Dec 16.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
125.00	124.00	Barclays Bank	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110.00	109.00	British Airways	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100.00	99.00	British Telecom	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90.00	89.00	British Petroleum	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80.00	79.00	British Overseas Airways	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70.00	69.00	British Airways	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60.00	59.00	British Airways	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50.00	49.00	British Airways	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40.00	39.00	British Airways	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.00	29.00	British Airways	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.00	19.00	British Airways	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.00	9.00	British Airways	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	British Airways	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BUILDING AND ROADS

250	250	Armitage	267	0	-1	12.7	0.3	83
240	240	Asahi	240	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
230	230	Asahi America	234	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
220	220	Asahi America	220	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
210	210	Asahi America	210	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
200	200	Asahi America	200	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
190	190	Asahi America	190	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
180	180	Asahi America	180	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
170	170	Asahi America	170	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
160	160	Asahi America	160	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
150	150	Asahi America	150	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
140	140	Asahi America	140	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
130	130	Asahi America	130	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
120	120	Asahi America	120	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
110	110	Asahi America	110	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
100	100	Asahi America	100	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
90	90	Asahi America	90	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
80	80	Asahi America	80	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
70	70	Asahi America	70	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
60	60	Asahi America	60	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
50	50	Asahi America	50	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
40	40	Asahi America	40	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
30	30	Asahi America	30	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
20	20	Asahi America	20	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
10	10	Asahi America	10	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
0	0	Asahi America	0	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
250	250	Asahi America	250	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
240	240	Asahi America	240	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
230	230	Asahi America	230	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
220	220	Asahi America	220	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
210	210	Asahi America	210	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
200	200	Asahi America	200	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
190	190	Asahi America	190	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
180	180	Asahi America	180	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
170	170	Asahi America	170	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
160	160	Asahi America	160	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
150	150	Asahi America	150	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
140	140	Asahi America	140	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
130	130	Asahi America	130	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
120	120	Asahi America	120	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
110	110	Asahi America	110	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
100	100	Asahi America	100	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
90	90	Asahi America	90	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
80	80	Asahi America	80	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
70	70	Asahi America	70	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
60	60	Asahi America	60	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
50	50	Asahi America	50	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
40	40	Asahi America	40	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
30	30	Asahi America	30	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
20	20	Asahi America	20	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
10	10	Asahi America	10	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
0	0	Asahi America	0	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
250	250	Asahi America	250	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
240	240	Asahi America	240	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
230	230	Asahi America	230	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
220	220	Asahi America	220	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
210	210	Asahi America	210	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
200	200	Asahi America	200	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
190	190	Asahi America	190	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
180	180	Asahi America	180	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
170	170	Asahi America	170	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
160	160	Asahi America	160	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
150	150	Asahi America	150	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
140	140	Asahi America	140	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
130	130	Asahi America	130	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
120	120	Asahi America	120	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
110	110	Asahi America	110	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
100	100	Asahi America	100	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
90	90	Asahi America	90	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
80	80	Asahi America	80	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
70	70	Asahi America	70	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
60	60	Asahi America	60	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
50	50	Asahi America	50	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
40	40	Asahi America	40	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
30	30	Asahi America	30	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
20	20	Asahi America	20	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
10	10	Asahi America	10	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
0	0	Asahi America	0	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
250	250	Asahi America	250	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
240	240	Asahi America	240	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
230	230	Asahi America	230	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
220	220	Asahi America	220	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
210	210	Asahi America	210	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
200	200	Asahi America	200	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
190	190	Asahi America	190	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
180	180	Asahi America	180	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
170	170	Asahi America	170	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
160	160	Asahi America	160	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
150	150	Asahi America	150	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
140	140	Asahi America	140	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
130	130	Asahi America	130	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
120	120	Asahi America	120	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
110	110	Asahi America	110	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
100	100	Asahi America	100	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
90	90	Asahi America	90	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
80	80	Asahi America	80	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
70	70	Asahi America	70	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
60	60	Asahi America	60	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
50	50	Asahi America	50	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
40	40	Asahi America	40	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
30	30	Asahi America	30	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
20	20	Asahi America	20	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
10	10	Asahi America	10	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
0	0	Asahi America	0	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
250	250	Asahi America	250	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
240	240	Asahi America	240	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
230	230	Asahi America	230	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
220	220	Asahi America	220	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
210	210	Asahi America	210	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
200	200	Asahi America	200	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
190	190	Asahi America	190	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
180	180	Asahi America	180	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
170	170	Asahi America	170	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
160	160	Asahi America	160	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
150	150	Asahi America	150	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
140	140	Asahi America	140	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
130	130	Asahi America	130	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
120	120	Asahi America	120	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
110	110	Asahi America	110	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
100	100	Asahi America	100	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
90	90	Asahi America	90	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
80	80	Asahi America	80	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
70	70	Asahi America	70	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
60	60	Asahi America	60	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
50	50	Asahi America	50	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
40	40	Asahi America	40	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
30	30	Asahi America	30	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
20	20	Asahi America	20	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
10	10	Asahi America	10	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
0	0	Asahi America	0	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
250	250	Asahi America	250	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
240	240	Asahi America	240	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
230	230	Asahi America	230	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
220	220	Asahi America	220	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
210	210	Asahi America	210	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
200	200	Asahi America	200	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
190	190	Asahi America	190	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
180	180	Asahi America	180	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
170	170	Asahi America	170	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
160	160	Asahi America	160	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
150	150	Asahi America	150	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
140	140	Asahi America	140	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
130	130	Asahi America	130	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
120	120	Asahi America	120	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
110	110	Asahi America	110	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
100	100	Asahi America	100	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
90	90	Asahi America	90	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
80	80	Asahi America	80	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
70	70	Asahi America	70	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
60	60	Asahi America	60	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
50	50	Asahi America	50	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
40	40	Asahi America	40	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
30	30	Asahi America	30	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
20	20	Asahi America	20	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
10	10	Asahi America	10	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
0	0	Asahi America	0	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
250	250	Asahi America	250	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
240	240	Asahi America	240	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
230	230	Asahi America	230	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
220	220	Asahi America	220	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
210	210	Asahi America	210	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
200	200	Asahi America	200	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
190	190	Asahi America	190	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
180	180	Asahi America	180	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
170	170	Asahi America	170	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
160	160	Asahi America	160	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
150	150	Asahi America	150	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
140	140	Asahi America	140	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
130	130	Asahi America	130	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
120	120	Asahi America	120	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
110	110	Asahi America	110	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
100	100	Asahi America	100	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
90	90	Asahi America	90	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
80	80	Asahi America	80	0	0	12.7	0.3	83
70	70	Asahi America	70	0	0	12.7	0.3	

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar remained under pressure yesterday, amid worries about the US economy and speculation about a cut in the 7% per cent discount rate. Operators were turning again to the mark and to sterling because of attractive interest rates and economic considerations. Sterling reached 1.4970 to the dollar at one stage, its best level since October, 1983. Although under the best at the close, the pound still registered a fresh gain of 93 points, at 1.4880.

The pound had weakened at first, but bounced back strongly towards the end of the session. It rose from 3.7397 to 3.7408 against the mark, having been almost 1½ pence cheaper at one time.

Sterling's effective exchange rate index ended 0.5 up at 81.3—the highest for two months.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	\$1.4875-1.4885	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
London	3.7397-3.7408	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Frankfurt	2.1722-2.1732	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Paris	2.1722-2.1732	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Brussels	2.1722-2.1732	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Copenhagen	13.5040-13.5050	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Oslo	1.2111-1.2121	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Stockholm	1.2111-1.2121	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Tokyo	207.80-207.85	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Yokohama	207.80-207.85	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Zurich	3.7408-3.7418	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c

Starling index compared with 1978 was up 0.5 at 81.3 (day's range 80.8-81.3).

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	\$1.4875-1.4885	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
London	3.7397-3.7408	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Frankfurt	2.1722-2.1732	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Paris	2.1722-2.1732	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Brussels	2.1722-2.1732	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Copenhagen	13.5040-13.5050	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Oslo	1.2111-1.2121	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Stockholm	1.2111-1.2121	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Tokyo	207.80-207.85	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Yokohama	207.80-207.85	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c
Zurich	3.7408-3.7418	0.44-0.45c	1.23-1.25c

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Ecol. *Lloyds Bank International.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Longer end paper was attracting some sizeable buying towards the end of yesterday's session of the pound and a sharp fall in this week's Treasury bill discount rate began to apply a little warmth to base rate expectations. The 12-month sterling Certificate of Deposit finished at 10.15% per cent, a ½ easier and the nine-month maturity

was similarly lower at 11-10% per cent. There was less movement in the middle areas of four months to six months. The shorter periods were about ½ off for paper.

Interbank term deposits showed more modest easing; here and there being ½ off.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %	Base Rates %
Cleaning Banks 11%	Cleaning Banks 11%	Cleaning Banks 11%	Cleaning Banks 11%
Discount House 12%	Discount House 12%	Discount House 12%	Discount House 12%
Overnight 11-11 1/2	Overnight 11-11 1/2	Overnight 11-11 1/2	Overnight 11-11 1/2
Week fixed 11-11 1/2	Week fixed 11-11 1/2	Week fixed 11-11 1/2	Week fixed 11-11 1/2
3 months 11-11 1/2	3 months 11-11 1/2	3 months 11-11 1/2	3 months 11-11 1/2
6 months 11-11 1/2	6 months 11-11 1/2	6 months 11-11 1/2	6 months 11-11 1/2
9 months 11-11 1/2	9 months 11-11 1/2	9 months 11-11 1/2	9 months 11-11 1/2
12 months 11-11 1/2	12 months 11-11 1/2	12 months 11-11 1/2	12 months 11-11 1/2

GOLD

Overnight 11-11 1/2	Overnight 11-11 1/2	Overnight 11-11 1/2	Overnight 11-11 1/2
1 month 11-11 1/2	1 month 11-11 1/2	1 month 11-11 1/2	1 month 11-11 1/2
3 months 11-11 1/2	3 months 11-11 1/2	3 months 11-11 1/2	3 months 11-11 1/2
6 months 11-11 1/2	6 months 11-11 1/2	6 months 11-11 1/2	6 months 11-11 1/2
9 months 11-11 1/2	9 months 11-11 1/2	9 months 11-11 1/2	9 months 11-11 1/2
12 months 11-11 1/2	12 months 11-11 1/2	12 months 11-11 1/2	12 months 11-11 1/2

ECGD

Local Authority Bonds (%)	Local Authority Bonds (%)	Local Authority Bonds (%)	Local Authority Bonds (%)
2 years 11%	2 years 11%	2 years 11%	2 years 11%
3 years 11%	3 years 11%	3 years 11%	3 years 11%
5 years 11%	5 years 11%	5 years 11%	5 years 11%
10 years 11%	10 years 11%	10 years 11%	10 years 11%

TREASURY BILL TENDER

Applications: £285.50m offered £100m	Applications: £285.50m offered £100m	Applications: £285.50m offered £100m	Applications: £285.50m offered £100m
Dec 1985 11-11 1/2	Dec 1985 11-11 1/2	Dec 1985 11-11 1/2	Dec 1985 11-11 1/2
Jan 1986 11-11 1/2	Jan 1986 11-11 1/2	Jan 1986 11-11 1/2	Jan 1986 11-11 1/2
Feb 1986 11-11 1/2	Feb 1986 11-11 1/2	Feb 1986 11-11 1/2	Feb 1986 11-11 1/2
Mar 1986 11-11 1/2	Mar 1986 11-11 1/2	Mar 1986 11-11 1/2	Mar 1986 11-11 1/2

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1985 High Low Company	1985 High Low Company	1985 High Low Company	1985 High Low Company
101 87	101 87	101 87	101 87
102 88	102 88	102 88	102 88
103 89	103 89	103 89	103 89
104 90	104 90	104 90	104 90
105 91	105 91	105 91	105 91
106 92	106 92	106 92	106 92
107 93	107 93	107 93	107 93
108 94	108 94	108 94	108 94
109 95	109 95	109 95	109 95
110 96	110 96	110 96	110 96
111 97	111 97	111 97	111 97
112 98	112 98	112 98	112 98
113 99	113 99	113 99	113 99
114 100	114 100	114 100	114 100
115 101	115 101	115 101	115 101
116 102	116 102	116 102	116 102
117 103	117 103	117 103	117 103
118 104	118 104	118 104	118 104
119 105	119 105	119 105	119 105
120 106	120 106	120 106	120 106
121 107	121 107	121 107	121 107
122 108	122 108	122 108	122 108
123 109	123 109	123 109	123 109
124 110	124 110	124 110	124 110
125 111	125 111	125 111	125 111
126 112	126 112	126 112	126 112
127 113	127 113	127 113	127 113
128 114	128 114	128 114	128 114
129 115	129 115	129 115	129 115
130 116	130 116	130 116	130 116
131 117	131 117	131 117	131 117
132 118	132 118	132 118	132 118
133 119	133 119	133 119	133 119
134 120	134 120	134 120	134 120
135 121	135 121	135 121	135 121
136 122	136 122	136 122	136 122
137 123	137 123	137 123	137 123
138 124	138 124	138 124	138 124
139 125	139 125	139 125	139 125
140 126	140 126	140 126	140 126
141 127	141 127	141 127	141 127
142 128	142 128	142 128	142 128
143 129	143 129	143 129	143 129
144 130	144 130	144 130	144 130
145 131	145 131	145 131	145 131
146 132	146 132	146 132	146 132
147 133	147 133	147 133	147 133
148 134	148 134	148 134	148 134
149 135	149 135	149 135	149 135
150 136	150 136	150 136	150 136
151 137	151 137	151 137	151 137
152 138	152 138	152 138	152 138
153 139	153 139	153 139	153 139
154 140	154 140	154 140	154 140
155 141	155 141	155 141	155 141
156 142	156 142	156 142	156 142
157 143	157 143	157 143	157 143
158 144	158 144	158 144	158 144
159 145	159 145	159 145	159 145
160 146	160 146	160 146	160 146
161 147	161 147	161 147	161 147
162 148	162 148	162 148	162 148
163 149	163 149	163 149	163 149
164 150	164 150	164 150	164 150
165 151	165 151	165 151	165 151
166 152	166 152	166 152	166 152
167 153	167 153	167 153	167 153
168 154	168 154	168 154	168 154
169 155	169 155	169 155	169 155
170 156	170 156	170 156	170 156
171 157	171 157	171 157	171 157
172 158	172 158	172 158	172 158
173 159	173 159	173 159	173 159
174 160	174 160	174 160	174 160
175 161	175 161	175 161	175 161
176 162	176 162	176 162	176 162
177 163	177 163	177 163	177 163
178 164	178 164	178 164	178 164
179 165	179 165	179 165	179 165
180 166	180 166	180 166	180 166
181 167	181 167	181 167	181 167
182 168	182 168	182 168	182 168
183 169	183 169	183 169	183 169
184 170	184 170	184 170	184 170
185 171	185 171	185 171	185 171
186 172	186 172	186 172	186 172
187 173	187 173	187 173	187 173
188 174	188 174	188 174	188 174
189 175	189 175	189 175	189 175
190 176	190 176	190 176	190 176
191 177	191 177	191 177	191 177
192 178	192 178	192 178	192 178
193 179	193 179	193 179	193 179
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196 182	196 182	196 182	196 182
197 183	197 183	197 183	197 183
198 184	198 184	198 184	198 184
199 185	199 185	199 185	199 185
200 186	200 186	200 186	200 186

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE		GAS OIL		SILVER SMALL	
Rubber in p per lb; Soybeans net, coffee and cocoa in c per tonne; Gas-oil and sugar in US\$ c per tonne.		Dec 298.50-85.75 Jan 250.75-50.50 Feb 252.25-52.50 Mar 245.50-45.25 Apr 225.50-35.00 May 220.00-30.00 Jun 277.50-27.25 Jul 225.00-25.00 Aug 250.00-25.00 Sept 2007		Cash 409.00 Three months 420.00 June 420.00 Aluminum	
G W Johnson and Co report				Cash 659.00 Three months 681.00 June 681.00 Tons 31	
U.S. million tons unsquated.				NICKEL	
Oct 0		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Cash 2880.00-28.00 Three months 2729.00-29.00 Tons 28	
		Unofficial prices Official turnover figures			
LUGAR		Prices in £ per metric tonne Selling in pounds per tonny export			
(New)		Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report			
Unsquated					
Jan 160.20-160.00		COPPER HIGH GRADE		MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	
May 164.00-163.00		Cash 917.00-918.00		Average fattened prices representative markets November 29	
Oct 171.24-169.00		Three months 924.00-928.00			
Oct 174.00-173.40		Tons 950.00-950.00 Tons 950.00-950.00			
Unsquated					
Oct 789					
LUGAR					
(New)					
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TEMPUS

Steady as she goes in the world bull markets

Both gilts and equities finished the week in slightly quizzical vein - but for different reasons. Gilts traders saw the cable rate heading towards \$1.50, noted the Bank's willingness to enter into sale and repurchase agreements which appeared marginally to favour the market, and concluded that the market ought to be sharply better.

The fact that it finished the week on a dull note is hard to rationalize. Not only did the authorities succeed in selling out the new 10% Exchequer Convertible (10% per cent 1989, at one fell swoop the stock also enjoyed a respectable trading in the first few days of its life in the secondary market, ending the week close to the figure (£40).

Nevertheless, no burst of buying materialized. Robbed of fundamental explanations for the market's quizzical performance, traders reached for more exotic reasons. Some muttered darkly about a thundering herd of Charlie Chans interfering with normal one-way business.

Hopes of base rate cuts live on, however. While the expectation of lower rates has driven the gilt market on throughout most of the year, the reality of cheaper money ought to drive upwards. Forget this week's temporary hiccup in the equity market, gurus like Jack Defries of Greene & Co and Robin Griffiths of Greaveson Grant warn, this market still has further to go.

According to Mr Defries, London is not overbought and should recover quite sharply in the run-up to Christmas, fuelled by the usual seasonal euphoria. The chartist still reckons that most sectors are in rising trends, apart from telecommunications, where a faltering British Telecom is dragging the sector down. Stores which have the best relative strength performance of the market, are still cheap. Unfashionable market segments like chemicals, tobacco, and electronics are also moving into strong buying zones.

Robin Griffiths is even more specific. London is now in a new phase of a bull market, and unlikely to retrace its steps below the previous ceiling, roughly 1,000 on the FT-30 share index.

He says London is behaving like the rest of Europe, which is full of bull markets, as an excess of money flows out of the dollar. He forecasts an index level of 1250 by next spring, a prognostication which will sound like music in the Chancellor's ears.

Matthew Brown

Poor old Matthew Brown! It has produced better results than it was fair to expect but even these may not be enough to ensure its continued independence.

The prospects for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries' £138 million bid are as uncertain as ever. S & N's 26 per cent shareholding is nearly matched by the combined holdings of Whitbread's investment arm, Britannic Assurance and the founding family. Uncommitted shareholders have to weigh up the case for keeping a good regional brewer in business against the attractions of taking cash.

Profits were up from £7.04 million to £8.2 million, which looks good against the background of poor demand. But the results, especially in the second half, were helped by a rise of nearly £300,000 in profits on property and investment sales.

Sales of ales fell during the year but the increase in demand for lager was sufficient to push the total up. Turnover was also helped by the inclusion of Theakston for a full year.

Though commendable, the results did not justify the 40 per cent in dividends, with the result that dividend cover has fallen to two. Retained profits were also down.

As well as increased profits and dividends the company has produced a property revaluation adding £13 million to shareholders' funds. But this still leaves S & N's offer at a substantial premium to assets.

If the bid fails, Matthew Brown's shares are likely to fall sharply, and this prospect must be a good reason for accepting the offer. But with the market price of 571p, down 2p, poised between the cash and paper offers, the outcome is still not decided.

Oil and gas accounting

The transition of British Gas from the public to the private sector will doubtless be accompanied by the transition of its accounting conventions from current to historical cost. There are doubts, though, that even this taken acknowledgment of the stock market's slavish devotion to the historical convention will bring any improvement in the understanding and interpretation of reported figures.

Energy analysts are as well placed as any to cope with financial statements constrained by accounting principles which are largely irrelevant to the specific needs and unique environment of the business. They are well versed in the irrelevant accounting convention, which is used predominantly in the financial statements of companies in the oil and gas industry.

The full extent of that irrelevance is demonstrated quite clearly in a survey of annual accounts by Peat Marwick, entitled: *UK Accounting Principles and Presentation: Oil and Gas*. The survey reveals a wide range of discrepancies between energy industry companies at almost every level of accounts presentation and preparation.

These deficiencies make it impossible to use the financial statements to compare companies within the sector. The lack of relevant information also makes it difficult to place any realistic value on a company.

Oil and gas analysts have been aware of these shortcomings for some time. More important to them are off-balance sheet factors which can be gleaned only from constant study of industry trends. The accounts are used only for ranking purposes to assess which companies are conservative in their approach and those which are less prudent.

This affords a more relevant insight into a company than a short and muddled statement of accounting policies.

The price earnings ratio, which is invalidated as an investment tool because of the inconsistencies in accounting practices within the sector, is rarely used. The key figures are cash flow and asset values.

The Oil Industry Accounting Committee is addressing the weaknesses in the energy sector's accounting. Its task is not easy and what a welcome boost it would be if British Gas took the initiative and used the opportunity of privatization to demonstrate that meaningful financial statements can be produced that can be understood by non-experts.

Savers with cut-price cruise holidays

If you are thinking of going on a P & O cruise, get yourself a Skipton Building Society Sovereign account and join the Travel Club. Members can get discounts of up to £500 on the cost of P & O cruises. Skipton calls it free spending money, but it is effectively a £80 discount on cruise prices of £1,000 and under, per person, to £250 off cruises priced at £4,000. The offer covers all P & O cruises on the Canberra and the Sea Princess. A couple can qualify for the maximum £500 discount between them.

"Our Sovereign Holidays promotion was such a success, that we've decided to make our holiday offers a more permanent feature," said Terry Adams, Skipton's general manager. "After the P & O cruises we will be announcing other interesting opportunities for members of our Travel Club."

Details: Skipton Building Society, High Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1DN (Skipton 4581).

Best man from the fund bunch

Which unit trust group has the best fund managers? Answer: Fidelity and GT, according to a new and comprehensive tome, the *Directory of Unit Trust Management*. Individual fund managers praised by the 30 firms of stockbrokers who were used to assess the fund managers are Christopher Bonford, of Brown Shipley, Andrew Cherniavsky, of Prolife, David Edwards, of County Bank, Alex Gowan, of EFM, J. H. Shillingford, of M & S, and Roger Yates of GT. At £20 a copy the directory is aimed at professional investment advisers and is available from London & International Publishers Ltd, 49 St James's Street, London SW1A 1JT (01-499 5042).

Thatcher's choice

Who better to introduce and endorse a book on the nuts and bolts of share ownership than Margaret Thatcher, who has pledged her Government to encourage wider share ownership? Mrs Thatcher writes in *The Share Book*, by Rosemary Burr, published this week: "For too long the world of stocks and shares has been a mystery understood by only a small minority. Yet the new opportunities will go begging unless enough people know how to take advantage of them. Now at last the tide is turning, and I am sure that this book will contribute to this process. It is about the nuts and bolts of buying, holding and selling shares. It should prove a valuable source of information and advice for many."

Praise indeed! But Rosemary Burr's book does do a thorough job. It provides an A-Z of share terms from Account to Zero Coupon Bond, a guide to how to buy shares, including a list of stockbrokers. Tax share perks, how to set up an investment club, unit trusts and investment trusts are all covered.

The *Share Book*, price £5.99, is available from W H Smith and other bookshops, or post-free from the publishers, Rosters, 60 Welbeck Street, London W1.

Bank trap

Bank customers are unprotected from changes being made as a result of the electronic banking revolution, Jeremy Mitchell, of the National Consumer Council, has warned. "It is time that the Government reviewed the need for a comprehensive electronic banking law," he said at an electronics conference in Scotland. "As things stand, for example, if my cash card and personal identification number are stolen, used and replaced without my knowledge, it's my loss, not the bank's. If I complain, the bank has only to point at the terms I agreed when I applied for my card. They don't even have to recover the money for me - it will already have been deducted from my account. The burden of proving that I didn't use my card rests with me. Is it fair that banks should impose such stringent terms in the absence of any controlling legislation?"

His warning comes hot on the heels of the appointment of a Banking Ombudsman, who is due to start operating in January and is capable of adjudicating on such situations.

The Co-op's meannies

The under-23s who have taken advantage of the Co-op Bank's promotional offer to new customers, seem to be a mean lot. Co-op Bank offered the option of a £10 voucher to be used in Co-op stores, an £8 cash credit in the new bank account, or a £10 donation to Bob Geldof's Band Aid charity to feed starving Africans. Believe it or not, nine out of ten of Co-op's new customers chose the £10 voucher with only one in ten opting for the charitable donation or the £8 cash. Some 10,000 new accounts have been opened since it started back in August. "The offer is now into its fourth month and we are still opening accounts under this offer at the rate of over 100 a day," said Roger Corvin, of Co-op Bank. "Unlike other banks which concentrate just



The actress and writer Nanette Newman, above, will open the new in-store life assurance and pensions service being launched by London Life the department store Beales of Bournemouth. "As well as being a new distribution channel for London Life, the link-up with Beales would seem to be a natural fit," says Chris Flood, London Life's marketing manager. "Both companies have similar customer profiles, are very competitive on price, yet will provide quality service products and performance." The in-store service starts on Monday.

transactions can be ordered by Hoare Govett Telebroking clients in exactly the same way.

"We felt that installing Telebroking in a public location followed the Government's desire to broaden share ownership," said Doug McGregor, of Hoare Govett. "If the Brighton and Eastbourne projects are successful, we could consider expanding the service throughout the country."

What a message

The unit trust industry's lack of success in spreading its message to a wider audience is a hot topic at the moment. The number of unit holders has barely increased in more than 10 years. But it is easy to see why, if latest comments from M & G's John Fairbairn are anything to go by. Of the industry's failure in this field, Mr Fairbairn said a major effort was needed to widen the appeal of unit trusts to raise additional investment for industry - and the possible subsequent fall in house prices. It does not require much imagination to guess how this statement will be viewed by house-owners and seems a curious way to get the unit trust message across to would-be new investors - the majority of whom own their own homes.

Mr Fairbairn believes that if investors could be encouraged to realize the value and potential of unit trusts there could be a tenfold increase in investment, and perhaps reduced funds for building societies - resulting in lower house prices. Is this the way to round up new investors?

More with Visa

If you hold a Visa card, you can use it from this week to obtain cash from Girobank LINK cash dispensers throughout Britain. So far about 80 post offices and eight retail outlets have Girobank ATMs, and by the middle of next year 180 will be operating. You can get cash with your Visa card in the normal way from Girobank's LINK ATMs by using your PIN - personal identification number.

Top rate for a year

The opportunity to earn a guaranteed 10.3 per cent net of basic rate tax is on offer from the St Pancras Building Society, and may be among the most attractive building society schemes currently available. Unlike most building society investments, the St Pancras One-Year Term Share offers a fixed rate of interest which does not change over the year term. Minimum investment is £5,000.

Details: St Pancras Building Society, 200 Finchley Road, London NW3 6PA (01-794 2331).

The Eagle Star UK Growth Trust

A new unit trust seeking growth opportunities in the shares of UK companies

The UK stockmarket is the third largest in the world - so the range of investments available to investors is extensive.

In fact, there are some 2,000 UK companies quoted on the stock exchange - and more than 300 others quoted on the relatively new Unlisted Securities Market.

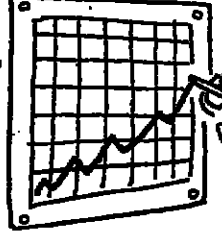
They range from the relatively low risk "blue chip" shares to the higher risk - and greater potential rewards - of smaller and more adventurous companies.

There are companies at every stage of development, from the very newest companies in the high-tech industries and fast growth sectors of the economy - to older companies with roots going back as far as the Industrial Revolution.

From this wealth of opportunities, experienced investment managers can identify companies that are under-rated by the market - so that, as time goes by, and a more general realisation of their own worth becomes apparent, substantial capital gains can be made.

A team of experts to manage your money

When you invest in the UK Growth Trust, you will be entrusting your money to the experienced hands of Eagle Star's team of full-time professionals - who manage total worldwide assets of more than £5,500 million. They will constantly monitor the performance of the Trust's holdings and take whatever action they believe will produce the best possible return for investors.



Although you should regard this Trust as a medium to long term holding, you can sell your units whenever you wish. Of course, if you don't wish to sell all your units, you won't have to. You can simply cash-in what you need, provided that you leave at least £500 or more invested.

MEDIUM RISK

As with any investment of this nature, the price of units - and the income from them - must be expected to fall from time to time, as well as rise.

You can cash-in or add to your investment at any time

Additional Information

Capital gains tax: Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax. Moreover, when you sell your units, you will not have to pay tax unless your total realised gains in the tax year exceed the tax-free threshold, which is currently £5,900.

Income Tax: Tax at the basic rate is deducted from the Trust's income before it is reinvested for you by the managers. If you are not liable to basic rate tax, you can reclaim the amount deducted. If you only pay tax at the basic rate, you will have no further tax to pay. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you will have to pay the additional rate of tax on it.

Trustee: Midland Bank Company Limited.

Managers: Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited, Registered Office, 1 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8BE.

Registrar: The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc.

You can also increase your investment (by £200 or more) whenever you wish.

The Trust's objective

The aim of this Trust is to achieve higher than average capital growth by investing in the shares of a small number of carefully selected UK companies.

Approximately three-quarters of the Trust will be invested in "special situations" which may include securities quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market as well as shares of companies just beginning to show growth potential.

How to invest

The UK Growth Trust is available to everyone aged 18 or over. Simply decide how much you wish to invest (minimum £500) - then complete the application form and send it with your cheque to Eagle Star Group, (LC43) FREEPOST, Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL53 3BR. No stamp is needed.

YOUR APPLICATION

To: Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited (LC43) FREEPOST Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 3BR.

I/we wish to invest £ (minimum £500) in the Eagle Star UK Growth Trust. A cheque made payable to Eagle Star Unit Managers is enclosed. I am/we are over 18 years of age.

Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____

Forenames (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____

Initial Address _____

Postcode _____

If the holdings are to be in joint names, please give full names and addresses of the other joint holders (maximum of 3) on a separate sheet of paper.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Please send details of your Share Exchange Service for unit trusts. ☐

Name and address of Financial Adviser (if any) _____

Not available to Residents of Eire.

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For full written details, please complete and post the coupon.

(*Money Management* & *Unitholder* magazine has produced tables revealing that of over 40 funds of this type investigated, the GRELLA Equity Fund came first for six-year growth to February 1985.)

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Telephone: 0242 521311

The information contained in this advertisement is based upon Eagle Star's understanding of current law and inland revenue practice.

FAMILY MONEY/2

Even if you're not earning £100,000 a year, for £1,000 a year you could retire on it.

Whether you're interested in a top-up plan to supplement your company pension, or arranging a private pension, for a relatively small outlay the returns on an Equitable plan can be quite staggering.

We offer plans for two categories of people. One for those in a company pension scheme, and one for those who aren't.

Left to arrange your own pension? If you're a partner, self-employed, or not in a company scheme, these examples of the kind of return you could expect should prove interesting.

Man aged	Tax bracket	Annual net outlay	Gross pension from 65*
30	30%	£1,000	£145,863
30	40%	£1,000	£170,173

In your company's pension scheme? If your company pension will be less than two thirds of your final salary, and if your contributions are less than 15% of your current salary you should be entitled, by the Inland Revenue, to a top-up pension. Bear in mind that these examples are in addition to your company pension.

Man aged	Tax bracket	Annual net outlay	Gross pension from 65*
32	30%	£1,000	£110,728
32	40%	£1,000	£129,182

If you'd like to retire on the kind of pension you're only dreaming about earning out the coupon or speak to us directly on 01-606 6611.

*Figures suppose that current immediate annuity rates apply at the time, and that current bonus rates including investment bonus are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed. Because of the terms of current pension arrangements the schemes are not available to Civil servants or employees of local government or nationalised industry.

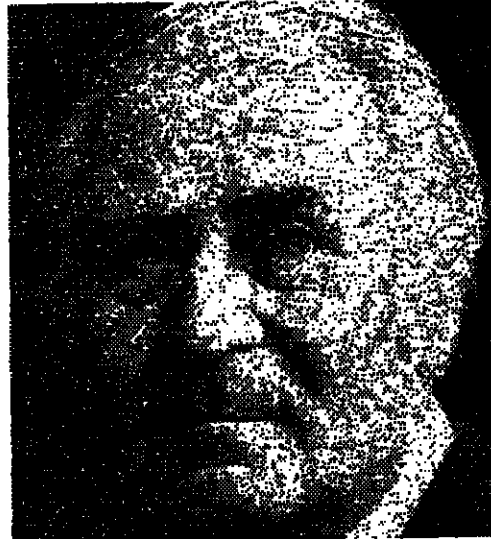
To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JT
I would welcome further details of The Equitable's retirement plans.
☐ I am self-employed; ☐ I am an employee not in a company pension scheme; ☐ I want to top-up benefits from my company's pension scheme.
☐ I would also welcome details on retirement plans linked to up to ten investment funds.

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____ (UK residents only)
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel (Office) _____
Date of Birth _____ Tel (Home) _____

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The Equitable Life
The oldest mutual life office in the world.

How your retirement cash can still be threatened



Henry James: 'Legislation should change'

PENSIONS

Time is running out for the Government if its aim of making pensions portable is not to be jeopardized by problems on the tax front.

This is the message from the National Association of Pension Funds in a paper setting out the amendments which urgently need to be made to the differing tax treatment of occupational and personal pensions.

The association points out that unless the two tax regimes are harmonized, the only alternative is a third tax regime for portable pensions which could have the opposite effect of the mobility which the Government is trying to achieve.

The paper highlights the fundamental tax problems - which have been pointed out to Government many times before - that taxation restrictions on occupational schemes operate in relation to the level of benefits paid out, whereas on personal pension schemes, the tax restrictions relate to the level of contributions paid into the pension scheme.

Given these basic differences, it is difficult to see how portable pensions can work as the Government intends.

In a letter to the Chancellor, the association's secretary general, Henry James, points out that Inland Revenue legislation at present prevents any mobility between occupational pension schemes and personal pension contracts, if the employee concerned is accruing benefits, however small they may be, under an occupational scheme.

Mr James says in his letter: "For these reasons we believe

that it will not be sufficient for the DHSS to legislate requiring greater mobility, flexible retirement and compulsory employer and employee contributions to personal pension contracts: that legislation can succeed in its objectives, only if it is accompanied by equally important amendments to Inland Revenue legislation to see why the association is writing to the Chancellor in such alarmist terms. This basic difficulty associated with making pensions truly portable has been pointed out before.

Yet the Government has been silent on its intentions on the tax front - possibly because few at the DHSS which is handling the portable pensions legislation, understand the complicated tax treatment of both occupational and personal pension schemes.

Some of the tax rules are plainly daft

Mr James writes: "It may well be that the Inland Revenue are already considering major amendments to the two existing tax regimes applicable to occupational pension schemes and personal pension contracts in order to facilitate the aims of the proposed DHSS legislation."

"We would, however, urge you to ensure that these proposed amendments are published in a discussion document prior to the publication of the White Paper so that all concerned can see the complete package of the legislative amendments proposed."

What most people in the industry would like to see is

occupational pension schemes coming into line with personal pension plans, shifting some of the restrictions on benefits, but limiting the tax relief available on contributions.

At the moment, an employee who is a member of a company pension scheme - however poor the benefits - is precluded from topping up his pension with a personal pension plan. The best that he can hope for is that his company will set up an additional voluntary contributions scheme.

"The Inland Revenue has been getting in the way of employers doing some very sensible things in relation to early retirement," said Colin Lever, chairman of the association.

And in some instances, the tax rules relating to pensions are plainly daft. It is possible for an employee to work for a firm for a number of years, and be a member of the company pension scheme - but find on changing jobs that there is no entitlement to a deferred pension at all.

Many schemes stipulate that the employee has to be a member of the pension scheme for a minimum number of years before qualifying for deferred benefits.

However, even though the former employee will get no pension from his company for those years of service, the Revenue still deems him to have been in "pensionable employment" and therefore maintains there is no entitlement to tax relief on a personal pension plan taken out to cover those lost years.

Lorna Bourke

How the law can keep a roof over your head

PROPERTY

You've lived in your flat for the past five years and made it your home. Then out of the blue, you're told to collect your belongings and get out. Fine, if you want to go. But what if you don't?

The first thing to know is that provided you keep in the terms of your tenancy agreement, you cannot be evicted while that agreement is in force.

The question of when your tenancy agreement comes to an end depends on what type of tenancy you have. If it is a fixed term tenancy (one which was granted for a definite period of time, three years, for example), you will automatically expire when that time runs out. So until then you are safe and your landlord normally has no right to turn you out.

But with a periodic tenancy (one which carries on indefinitely from week to week or month to month, etc) you can count on being able to quit whenever the notice must be given in writing and give you at least four weeks to get out.

In addition, any tenant who fails to comply with his tenancy obligations risks having his lease forfeited by his landlord. So if you fall behind with the rent, watch out.

Once your tenancy agreement

Landlord cannot just change the locks

has come to an end then - unless you can claim Rent Act protection - your landlord will have the right to evict you.

But he cannot simply wait in and change the locks on you. Nor can he send in the heavy services to frighten you out. In law, no tenant can be evicted unless a possession order is first obtained from the court. If your landlord tries to evict you without doing this or if he harasses you in any way, he may be guilty of a criminal offence.

GOLDEN RULE: Even when your lease expires or you receive notice to quit then (unless you are very sure that

you want to move) stay put and don't budge. By going voluntarily before a court says so you could be sacrificing two very valuable rights:

- the right to Rent Act protection;
- the right to be rehoused by the local authority.

RENT ACT PROTECTION: Generally speaking, almost anyone who has been granted a tenancy of private residential premises - whether a house, part of a house, a flat, etc - is entitled to Rent Act protection. This gives you the right to stay on in your home even after your tenancy agreement has come to an end.

Your landlord can only then evict you in certain very limited circumstances which he must prove to the satisfaction of the court.

The circumstances include:

- where suitable alternative accommodation will be available;
- where the tenant has misbehaved in some way - such as not paying his rent or allowing the premises to deteriorate;
- Where the landlord wants to use the premises as a residence for himself or certain members of his family.

What your landlord cannot do is evict you simply because he thinks he could sell the premises more profitably with vacant possession.

Before taking on a tenancy, check whether you are actually entitled to protection. There are exceptions: tenancies of houses or flats with a rateable value of over specified limits - for example, in the case of a dwelling which entered the valuation list on or after April 1, 1973, this limit is £1,500 in Greater London or £750 outside.

Holiday lets, tenancies where the landlord is resident on the premises - and has been since the start of the tenancy - and tenancies where part of the rent is paid in respect of "board and attendance" (meals and service) are also exceptions.

Also, take care if the document you sign describes itself as a "licence". If you have a licence, your landlord may claim he can get you out almost

whenever he wants and on very little notice. Dressing up what is really a tenancy as a licence is a well-known trick for trying to avoid Rent Act protection. It's unjust and the courts don't like it.

Yet another point to bear in mind is this: if you are after long-term security, think twice before taking a short-term tenancy. A short-term tenancy is a letting for a fixed period of time (between one and five years) where the landlord has a guaranteed right to get you out at the end of the pre-arranged period.

You can find out more about this in a booklet published by the Department of the Environment called *Shorthold Tenancies*.

Finally, a word about the public sector. Until recently, public sector tenants received very little protection. But with the Housing Act 1980, however, a new scheme of protection was introduced, to help particular tenants (and licensees) of local authorities, development corporations and other public bodies.

This scheme is similar but not identical to that given to private tenants under the Rent Act. In other words, the landlord has to serve notice and get a possession order if the tenant is going to be removed. Again, the court will make an order only in certain limited circumstances.

Court order only in certain circumstances

This, of course, is a bird's-eye view. If you have a particular problem with your landlord it is essential to get a solicitor at the outset.

Don't let the thought of legal bills put you off. Many solicitors are prepared to give you tips to help at home's advice at a nominal charge. And anyway, you may be entitled to legal aid.

Jacquetta Castle

The Department of the Environment prints a series of booklets on housing problems. These can be obtained free from your local authority or citizens' advice bureau.

TAX-EFFICIENT SAVINGS FOR CHILDREN

Through Schroders new Covenant Scheme you can save from £25 monthly for a child - except your own - and the taxman will add over £10 to it!

The money is invested for growth and income in one or more of Schroders' excellent unit trusts, to help build capital for the future.

Return the coupon for full details.

THE SCHRODER COVENANT SCHEME FOR CHILDREN

To: Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
Regal House, 14 James Street, London WC2E 8BT. 01-836 6731
Please send me details of the Schroder Covenant Scheme for Children.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Postcode _____

Schroder Financial Management Ltd.

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With more than 800 unit trusts available, it is becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for the private investor to find his way through the unit trust maze.

The recent introduction of the so-called "fund of funds" concept has added to the confusion, claiming greater flexibility and wider spread, yet still restricting investment to the manager's own range of trusts.

If you share our view that independent advice is likely to be the best advice and would like your portfolio to have full access to all the 800 trusts available, a Hoare Govett Unit Trusts Account may be just what you are looking for.

- A choice of investment strategies to meet both capital growth and high-income objectives.
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For further information on how to open a Hoare Govett Unit Trusts Account contact John Savage on 01-404 0344, or fill in the coupon below.

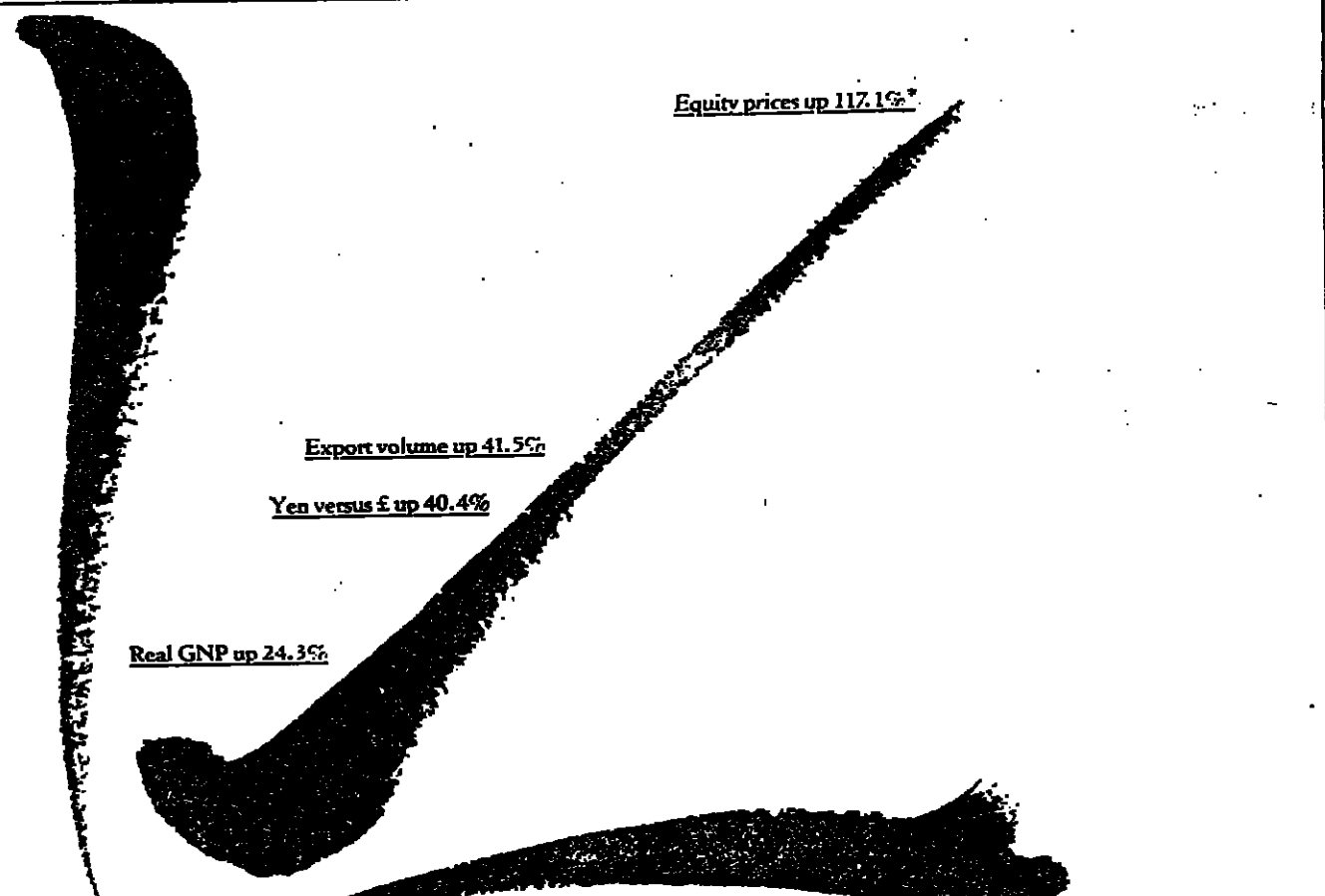
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Information over the five years to mid-1985.
*Not currency adjusted. Source: Tokyo-Nikkei E. Index



For the investor, Japan isn't just the Land of the Rising Sun.

You hardly need us to extol the virtues of the Japanese economy. The facts above speak for themselves.

Indeed, just about the only economic indicator that isn't on the up and up is inflation. That's down to 2.5% and holding steady.

Little wonder then that the Japanese economy is growing faster than any other in the developed world.

If you wish to secure a stake in it, you now have a splendid opportunity.

We have just launched the Lloyds Bank Japan Growth Unit Trust.

Its aim is to seek out and take maximum advantage of the growth opportunities that exist in Japan.

To this end we have several factors in our favour.

The Yen continues to be under-valued against the US Dollar.

Investment in research and development, the seedcorn of future growth, is higher than it has ever been.

And then, we humbly submit, there is the expertise of our investment managers. They know the market. They already

manage £120 million of equities in Japan. Units can be bought from any Lloyds Bank, by customers and non-customers alike, at an initial price of 50p until December 30. (Minimum investment is £500.)

Alternatively, simply fill in the form on the right. Or phone E. W. Shipley on (0444) 459144 (24 hour service).

And then, hopefully the Land of the Rising Sun will also be the Land of your Rising Lloyds Bank Units.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Trust Deed allows up to 2% of the Fund to be invested in the Tokyo Over The Counter market. The Managers have the right to use proceeds from the sale of Japanese equities to take maximum advantage of foreign exchange markets. They will use currency hedges and any means which may be authorised by the Department of Trade to hedge the currency risk, if such action is considered desirable. The Fund may deal in authorised traded option markets should these become available in Japanese equities.

Based upon the initial offer price of 50p, the estimated gross starting yield will be under 1% per annum. (After 30 December 1985, units may be bought at the offer price then prevailing. The Japan Growth Unit Trust is a specialist unit trust and the performance is likely to be more volatile than a more broadly based fund. You should bear this in mind when deciding what proportion of your investments should go into the trust.

Prices of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Contract notes will not be issued for the initial offer. Certificate will be despatched within six weeks of receipt of your cheque.

We offer unsecured Accumulation Units where net income is automatically reinvested, or Income Units where income is distributed annually on 15 May. The first income distribution will be in May 1986.

CHARGES: The offer price includes an initial charge of 5%. The annual charge is 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the trust.

(The Trust Deed provides that the annual charge may be increased to a maximum of 5% on 1 month's notice to unit holders.) The Managers retain the small rounding adjustments. The Managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rates available on request.

Unit prices and yields are published daily in leading national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the Managers at not less than the minimum bid price calculated by a formula approved by the Department of Trade. Cheques are normally forwarded within 7 days of receipt of cash charged certificates.

Managers: Lloyd Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd, a member of the Unit Trust Association, Reg. Office: 7 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Registered in England No 38076. Trustee: Alliance Assurance Co Ltd.

To: Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH16 5ZA.

I wish to invest in units of the Japan Growth Unit Trust at 50p per unit and enclose a remittance payable to Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd.

Unit 20 December 1985: your investment will be at 50p per unit, therefore units may be bought at the offer price then prevailing. The minimum initial investment is £500. Additional unit purchases must be for not less than £100.

Accumulation Units, with income to be reinvested, will normally be issued. If you prefer Income Units, with income distributed annually, please tick here ☐

I declare that I am over 18 years old. Date of birth if aged between 18 and 19 (omit applicants must sign and attach name and address separately).

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Mr/Ms/Ms Title (surname) _____ BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Lloyds Bank

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FAMILY MONEY/3

No interest on some insurance schemes

Insurance companies may have conceded that interest is due on delayed pay-outs of life insurance claims (The Times, November 9) - but there will still be a lot of disappointed beneficiaries.

Canada Life has agreed to pay interest on claims after one month's delay - a more generous stance than the Association of British Insurers guideline of two months. But brothers Stephen and Lewis Evans of Morecambe have discovered there are exceptions to this rule.

Their father, Kenneth Evans, died on January 1 leaving a death benefit of £13,200 from the Electrical Contractors Association, a policy underwritten by Canada Life.

But although Canada Life pays interest on individual claims it does not pay interest on this group scheme. "This scheme states that no interest is payable. It's unfortunate, but

'No criticism of insurance company'

It's not our rules," says Roger Fuller, a spokesman for Canada Life.

There was a delay in obtaining probate on Mr Evans' estate because the sons asked Barclays Bank to renounce its role as executor, and the will involved a private company and various properties. Probate was obtained on March 31 and the benefit was paid out on April 2, three months after the death.

"No criticism is made of the insurance company as they paid out very quickly once probate was exhibited," says Anthony Collinson, the solicitor acting for Mr Evans' sons.

Canada Life is paying 10.5 per cent gross on delayed claims, so if the policy had been a personal one rather than a group life policy outside the normal Canada Life rules Mr Evans' sons would have received an extra £231 before tax.

Mr Collinson was enraged. He approached the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service but was told there was nothing to be done as the scheme rules had been applied. Lewis Evans, who with his brother runs a machine hire company in Morecambe, says: "It's a matter of principle."

Canada Life added that in many cases money is paid out on a group scheme before probate formalities are completed. All they need is a death certificate and the settlement can often be made to the scheme quickly. "We take care of that very quickly. It's up to the trustees of the scheme to settle the estate."

A credit worth banking on

The last time we surveyed high-interest cheque accounts a *Times* reader wrote inquiring whether there was an equivalent type of account suitable for small businesses. VIVIEN GOLDSMITH has been investigating.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses who may often have fairly large sums of money sitting in their current accounts have most to gain from opening an interest-bearing cheque account - but they will find it much more difficult than a private individual to track down an account that will welcome their custom.

Many of the high-interest cheque accounts are open only to individuals, clubs, churches and charities. The banks and finance houses which run the accounts are looking for customers who wish to lodge sizeable sums and who will not use their cheque books too often.

They feel small businesses will need an active account and that perhaps the balances may not always be flourishing.

Lloyds, Midland, Citibank, Allied Dunbar and the Royal Bank of Scotland all say they will not accept small businesses into their high-interest cheque account.

But three interest-bearing accounts tailor-made for the small businessman have been launched this year and several of the personal accounts will accept business customers.

Unlike the other accounts, the TSB's Managed Account is designed to take care of all banking needs - including overdrafts. The overdraft facility can be negotiated at the outset and then taken up automatically when the need arises.

The interest rate is modest compared with the accounts designed for personal use but the account provides a real alternative to a current account rather than a souped-up deposit facility.

It was launched in January and by the end of the year the TSB expects to have opened 10,000 accounts, two-thirds from new customers.

The charges on the account are negotiated with the branch manager just like a normal business account. Then cheques are charged for in the normal way. Co-op's Cheque & Interest account, version 2, offers its Cheque & Save account - levies a charge of £3 a month allowing customers 18 debit items a quarter, after which there is a charge of 50p per £100 of debit turnover. The account is intended for people who plan to

stay in credit," said a Co-op spokesman. At Save & Prosper the Corporate High Interest Account requires a minimum opening balance of £5,000 but there are in practice no charges and no restrictions on the number of cheques you can write.

"If someone was averaging more than 2,500 transactions a year we would get a bit edgy," said the general manager, Ian Lindsay.

S & P admits it is looking for customers who want to keep high balances in their account. "If someone said they expected to keep a small balance in the account and have a high traffic then we would turn the account away," said Mr Lindsay.

S & P has reserved the right to make a charge if the balance falls below £2,500 or the traffic through the account picks up. "So far we have never charged anyone," said Mr Lindsay. "We are quite selective about the accounts that we open."

This is an account structured to repel those with small balances as no interest is paid on the first £2,500 unless more

Interest paid on tiny balances

than £50,000 is kept in the account. And it is not for those who want to borrow. "In due course we may move into lending," said Mr Lindsay.

Of the accounts generally aimed at individuals, but open to small businesses only, the Bank of Scotland and Barclays Prime Account pay interest on tiny balances. However, Barclays allows just six free

INTEREST-BEARING CHEQUE ACCOUNTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSMEN

	Interest rate net %	Number of free cheques	Overdraft facility
Co-op Cheque & Interest	500-2,500 7.10 Over 2,500 8.97	18	No
TSB Managed Account	0-9,999 4.75 10,000-99,999 7.00 Over 100,000 7.125	n/a	Yes
Save & Prosper Corporate High Interest Account	2,500-10,000 8.3* Over 50,000 8.3	No Limit	No
Charterhouse Japhet	0-2,500 0 2,500 8.32	15	No
Bank of Scotland	0-2,500 3.98 Over 2,500 8.27	9	No
Barclays Prime Account	0-2,500 3.25 Over 2,500 8.25	6	No
Schroders Special Account	0-10,000 8.22 Over 10,000 8.41	No Limit	Yes**
M&G/Kleinwort Benson High Interest Cheque Account	0-900 8.22 over 900	No Limit	No

* On balances under £50,000 no interest is paid on the first £2,500

** Overdrafts available secured on holding of Schroders funds



cheques and the Bank of Scotland nine before imposing a charge of 50p per cheque. Both insist on minimum deposits and withdrawals of £250.

The Bank of Scotland will not automatically open its high-interest cheque account to small businesses. "It's subject to the individual branch manager," said a spokesman.

At Charterhouse Japhet customers are allowed 15 free cheques and then the cheques are charged at a negotiated rate. If the balance falls below £2,500 no interest is paid. At the moment there is no cheque card on offer with the account, but since the takeover by the Royal Bank of Scotland things may change so that Charterhouse can offer a fuller banking service.

Schroders, another merchant bank, does not limit the number of cheques customers

can write but insists that only one a month can be for less than £250. The idea behind this concession is that personal customers could use this cheque to pay off their credit card debt, however small.

This account also offers overdrafts to those who hold at least £10,000 worth of Schroders funds.

M & G also imposes no formal limit on the number of cheques that customers can write. "But we do not expect them to use it as a current account," said a spokesman. The minimum opening balance is £2,500, but M & G will pay interest as long as the balance remains above £900.

SOUND GROWTH 1% BONUS SOUND INCOME

Now TSB offers you both in today's expanding Britain

The UK stock market has responded enthusiastically to the Chancellor's autumn statement predicting continued prosperity into 1986. Upward pressure on share prices continues to be steady, and most observers feel that the market will continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

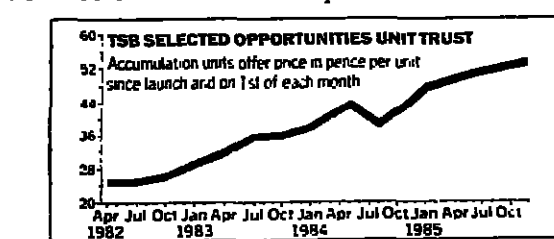
At TSB Unit Trusts, we share this view. We think that investors today have a better opportunity than for some time to enjoy soundly based capital growth and income.

Our double offer

So we are suggesting two unit trusts for current investment: TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust for the right sort of growth; TSB Income Unit Trust for the right sort of income. You can invest in either one, or a combination of both.

Choosing companies for growth

The strength of our Selected Opportunities Trust lies in its freedom to invest in undervalued and recovery stocks, companies with good growth prospects, takeover situations and so on wherever they occur, rather than be tied to one specific sector. The chart below shows how successfully this nimble-footed investment policy has paid off. The unit price has more than doubled since launch in April 1982.



FACTS ABOUT THESE TRUSTS

Managers: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Members of the Unit Trust Association). Investment Manager: Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited.

Trustee: General Accident Assurance and Trust Company Limited.

Charges: 3% on initial purchase; thereafter 1% p.a. (plus VAT) of each Fund's value.

Income: Income is paid quarterly. The Trust allows for a maximum charge of 1% deducted from each Trust's income. The Trust allows for a maximum charge of 1% deducted from each Trust's income.

These charges are included in the offer price of units.

Selling units: Units in any of our Trusts can be sold back on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions. Payment will normally be made within 7 days of receipt of a renounced unit certificate.

Recommendations: Payable to qualified intermediaries only on request.

Prices/Yields: Offer price for income units/estimated current gross yield for TSB Income Unit Trust 1985/86 4.44%/4.44% and for accumulation units/estimated current gross yield for TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust 1985/86 21.5%/21.5% both at November 26th 1985. Prices and yields are quoted daily in the national press.

Income distribution: TSB Income Unit Trust January 25th and July 25th (investments made now will receive first income distribution July 25th 1986); TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust May 15th and November 15th.

Registered Office: Keats House, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 1PG. Registered in England and Wales, number 1629925.

TSB UNIT TRUSTS

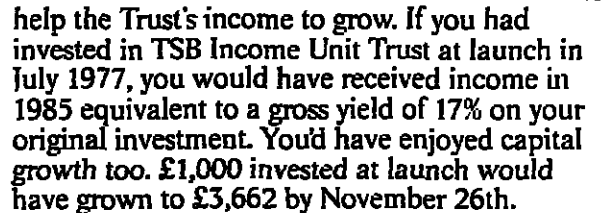
A TOP PERFORMER

TSB Unit Trusts Limited is one of the most successful companies in its field, turning in the kind of performance that led Money Magazine to make it their 1984 Unit Trust Group of the Year. With over £740 million under management, spread across nine unit trusts, it is one of the largest groups in the country.

Share-Exchange facilities

TSB Unitbuilder regular savings scheme

Picking the high earners TSB Income Unit Trust has a similar excellent record through investment in high-yielding shares of sound and mainly British companies. As prosperity continues into 1986, these companies should further increase their dividends and so help the Trust's income to grow. If you had invested in TSB Income Unit Trust at launch in July 1977, you would have received income in 1985 equivalent to a gross yield of 17% on your original investment. You'd have enjoyed capital growth too. £1,000 invested at launch would have grown to £3,662 by November 26th.



Exciting prospects You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You should regard your investment as a medium to long-term one. However, we firmly believe that today's markets and tomorrow's prospects offer you an exciting combination of good growth and income. Both would be soundly based on the performance and promise of well-managed companies in the foreseeable future.

How to invest - and get a bonus Simply complete and return the coupon with your cheque. The minimum investment in either trust is £250. You don't have to invest in both. And if you invest before December 18th, we will add a bonus of 1% of extra units to your holding - completely free!

TSB INCOME UNIT TRUST AND TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST

Bonus Application Form valid until December 18th 1985

To: Fred Shaftoe, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keats House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Tel: (0264) 63432/3/4

TSB Income Unit Trust:

I/We wish to invest £ (min £250) in income/accumulation units*

TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust:

I/We wish to invest £ (min £250) in income/accumulation units*

at the offer price(s) ruling on the day of receipt of this application, and to include a bonus of 1% of free extra units if I/we invest before December 18th 1985.

*Delete as appropriate. Holders of income units will receive three yearly payments from each Trust. Holders of accumulation units will have their income reinvested. (If no unit preference is indicated, accumulation units will automatically be issued.)

Tick for details of:

Share-Exchange facilities

TSB Unitbuilder regular savings scheme

BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms (Forenames)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Signature

Date

In the case of joint applications, all applicants must sign and attach names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper. This offer is only open to investors who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

A Revolutionary Tax Bonus!

Traditional Investment Bond Funds deduct a Capital Gains Tax levy before calculating the value of your investment. After a few years this tax starts to bite hard into the performance of your investment and acts as a real brake on the returns you may otherwise expect.

A leading insurance company has decided to abolish this Capital Gains Tax levy for all investments in the foreseeable future; no other company has taken this step.

Their new Performance Plus Bond, TO BE LAUNCHED ON 17th FEBRUARY 1986, should get your capital off to a flying start by giving you the double benefit of Unit Trust performance plus all the extra advantages of traditional Bond investments.

Parastel Financial Services Limited is offering the following pre-launch additional unit allocations for investments received prior to December 26th:

£2,000 - £7,999 103 1/2% £8,000 - £14,999 104 1/2% £15,000+ 105 1/2%

For investments received prior to the 14th of December 1985, there will be an additional 1/4% allocation.

Immediate Action is Required

For all information and no obligation reservation form return the coupon or telephone Chris Hurst or Julian Taylor on 061-832-4812.

Parastel Financial Services Limited

Dept. T, Freepost, Manchester M2 8BD. (No stamp needed)

Name

Address

Tel

GUS THE GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES PLC

Record profits, earnings and dividends

The principal activities of the Group are catalogue and telephone ordering, multiple shops, manufacturing, merchandising, finance, property and business information services.

Earnings per stock unit increased to 61.49p from 54.14p last year. Dividends total 18p per stock unit (1984: 16p) covered 3.4 times on an historical cost basis.

The unaudited results for the first 5 months of the current year show an improvement over the same period last year.

Comparative figures to 31st March

1985 £000s 1984 £000s

Turnover (excluding VAT) 2,176,582 2,033,043

Profit before taxation 253,502 226,548

Taxation 99,296 90,810

Retained profit 114,057 96,902

Net current assets 962,256 836,733

Ordinary Stockholders' funds* 1,220,943 1,105,960

*Excluding £200 million surplus on revaluation of trading properties.

GUS owns or trades from over 2,500 Mail Order, Retail, Industrial and Investment premises in the UK and Overseas.

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Park Hotels plc Chelsea Restaurants plc

Shares in these two companies are now available until December 5th (Park Hotels) and December 13th (Chelsea Restaurants).

These Companies are sponsored by Johnson Fry & Co Ltd, whose role as a leading BES Sponsor has been built on the ability to pick good management, backed by sound assets (in both these cases,

freehold Central London property) and to present this in a package which is fair to all parties. Both offers are fully underwritten.

If you want an interesting, sound and potentially profitable investment with full tax relief in the 1985/6 Tax Year, telephone for a prospectus, which will provide you with full details.

This advertisement is not an invitation to invest in shares of the Companies.

For a full prospectus please telephone:-

Johnson Fry & Co Ltd

Princes House

36 Jermyn Street

London SW1Y 6DJ

Licensed Dealers in Securities - Members of NASDIB

01-434 1416

01-499 5066



Johnson Fry

FAMILY MONEY/5

In the interest of helping the old

Have you an elderly relative for whom you are responsible? And if you have, what would happen if that relative became physically and mentally incapable of dealing with his or her affairs? A new Act which comes into force in early 1986, is designed to deal with just this situation. An accountant, ROGER CLARKE explains how it will operate.

Many people in their later years, and some in their earlier and middle years, become unwilling or incapable of dealing with business affairs. If they are unwilling, they can give a power of attorney to someone they trust, and that power can authorize the attorney to do whatever the donor could do.

However, if the person moves from being unwilling to being incapable, because of mental incapacity, then the power of attorney ceases to be valid - just at the moment when it is most needed. It is situations such as this which the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act, 1985, when it comes into force shortly, is designed to solve.

The world is not put on notice to ask about the mental capacity of the donor of a power of attorney, so there are, no doubt, many cases where

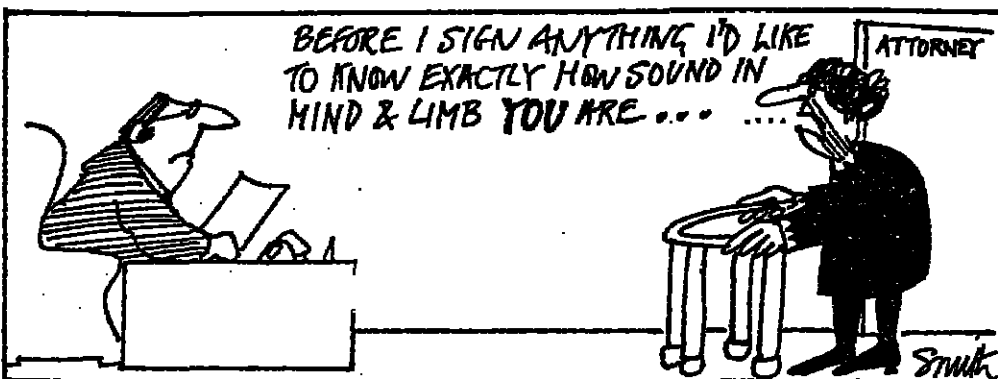
everything is operating quite smoothly on an invalid power of attorney, and to no one's detriment. Equally, one has to recognise, there is a strong probability that some invalid powers of attorney are being operated less satisfactorily.

If the power of attorney ceases to be valid because of the donor's mental incapacity, the only remedy under the present law is to apply to the Court of Protection for the appointment of a receiver. This is an elaborate and cumbersome procedure and involves significant costs. Families are often, very naturally, reluctant to establish formally that an elderly relative is mentally incapable.

The Act permits the creation of a power of attorney which is not revoked by any subsequent mental incapacity. To protect the donor and the family it lays down the principles to be observed in the creation of the power and provides for its registration in the event of the donor becoming mentally incapable.

The skeleton of the formalities required is laid down in the Act and it will be fleshed out in the regulations, but the document creating an enduring power must include the following:

● A description of the general effect of creating or accepting the power;



● A statement by the donor that he intends the power to continue even if he becomes mentally incapable;

● A statement by the donor that he has read the statement explaining the effect of creating the power;

● A statement by the attorney that he understands his duties as to registration in the event of mental incapacity.

An enduring power can either confer a general authority on the attorney to do anything on behalf of the donor which the donor himself can lawfully do, or be restricted to specific matters.

Even with a general power there are restrictions on using it to benefit anyone other than the donor or to make gifts. It can be used to do only what the donor might reasonably be expected to do and what is reasonable in relation to his or her assets.

The attorney who becomes aware that the donor is, or is becoming, mentally incapable has to register the power of attorney. Before registration the

attorney has to notify the family and the donor. The family has to be notified in order of proximity of relationship (husband or wife, children, parents, brother and sisters, etc) and not more than three people have to be notified except that all members of the same class of relation have to be notified.

The relatives may lodge an objection to registration. The principal grounds for objection are that the application is premature because the donor is not yet becoming mentally incapable, that fraud or undue pressure was used when the power was created, or that the attorney's relationship to the donor makes him unsuitable to act.

The court has wide powers to dispense with notice and to inquire into any objections. Then it has either to register the instrument or to refuse to do so.

If it refuses an application, except on the grounds that the donor is not yet becoming mentally incapable, the power of attorney has to be cancelled.

The process of registration will obviously take some time. When the attorney has made an application for registration he may continue, until it has been determined, to operate under the power to look after the donor, to prevent loss to his estate and to support his dependants.

In addition, the court itself can exercise when registration is completed.

Once the document has been registered the donor cannot revoke or change it and the attorney cannot disclaim without giving notice to the court.

And, the court has a general duty to supervise the operation of the power.

The process of becoming mentally incapable can be slow and insidious; the time to create an enduring power of attorney is when the donor is in full command of his or her faculties.

Certainly anyone of middle or late middle age ought to consider very seriously taking advantage of the facilities provided by the Act.

هنا من الرجل

Hoskins Brewery PLC



Offer for Subscription under the Business Expansion Scheme

Oceana Asset Management Limited
(Licensed Dealer in Securities)

Of up to 3,500,000 Ordinary Shares of 50p each at 60p per share payable in full on application to raise up to £2.1 million.

The company owns and operates one of England's oldest Victorian Tower Breweries, producing traditional ales, and a chain of quality freehold and long leasehold licensed premises in the East Midlands and London.

Investors are offered the opportunity to invest in a company with substantial property assets and a good profit potential. As the company is already trading, BES certificates should be available shortly after the offer closes.

The monies being raised will be utilised to expand the business by acquiring and developing further licensed premises. The management will have a substantial stake in the company.

Copies of the prospectus with an application form attached, on which basis only application for shares will be accepted, may be obtained from:

Oceana Asset Management Limited,
Garden House, 18 Finsbury Circus,
London EC2M 7BL.
Telephone: 01-558-7262 Telex: 8952218.

Income Tax Relief 1985/86

Writes for our readers

Our bookshelves were swelled this week by some new arrivals.

● **The Disability Rights Handbook** definitely comes under the textbook heading. Published in a softcover magazine style, it is an undoubtedly important guide to the rights of the disabled and their families, incorporating re benefits up-rating effected this month. It is an invaluable source of information for pressure groups, priced at £2.40.

● **The Disability Alliance Education and Research Association**, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2N 2BJ (01-240 0806).

● Professor Peter Sloane's work for the David Hume Institute, entitled **Sex at Work**, examines the effects of legislation on the equal-pay-for-work-of-equal-value controversy, and suggests that it may be a handicap for women.

Professor Sloane suggests that women would benefit more from the separate taxation of

spouse's earnings, parental leave paid for by general taxes, and more child care facilities. Contact: David Hume Institute, Glencorse, Midlothian EH26 0NL (Penicook 77517).

● **Pensioners' Voice**, the official organ of the National Federation of Retirement Pensions Association, has just announced the publication of the 20th edition of its booklet, **Your Pension**, covering areas of financial and legal interest to pensioners and those preparing for retirement.

Members of the federation receive it free, or it can be purchased for £1 from Pensioners' Voice, Melling House, 91 Preston New Road, Blackburn, Lancs BB20 6BD.

Finally, Brian J. Millard's **Stocks and Shares**, a simplified guide for the smaller investor, has just been reissued in its second edition. It is published by John Wiley & Sons and is available from December 5.

Sue Proud

Unit trusts were intended as a simple way to invest in the stock markets. What went wrong?

Look no further than the advertisements on the surrounding pages.

You'll see a simple idea buried under a morass of jargon and percentage points. And yet you're still left with the worrying decisions. Europe or America, buy or sell, now or next week?

It's no wonder investors feel confused. And who could blame you for thinking that maybe it would be easier to put your money back into the building society?

That's why Sun Life have gone right back to basics with their Managed Trusts. They offer unit trust investment in the best of the world's stock markets, professionally managed but simply presented.

A return to simplicity

Our Managed Trusts set out to make your money work harder for you.

What they won't do is involve you in complicated decisions about where and when and how much to invest.

We believe that these kind of decisions are much better left to professionals like our investment managers.

Day by day, they're searching the stock markets of the world for the most rewarding opportunities.

In fact, we ask you to make only one decision: what do you want from your investment?

What kind of investor are you?

Whether you've £500 to invest (which is the minimum) or £50,000, you'll have one of three basic investment objectives. Each is matched by one of our Managed Trusts.

If you're seeking the maximum growth for your capital, our Managed Growth Trust will meet your needs. It pays no regard to the production of income.

Our Managed Income Trust is for more conservative investors who need some income now but want to see both their income and capital grow as a hedge against inflation.

Or it could be that your priority is a regular and substantial income. That objective is best met by our Managed High Yield Trust with its quarterly income payments.

If you would prefer to build up capital from scratch, our Managed Savings Account provides a flexible, efficient way to save on a regular monthly basis.

The minimum investment is £25 a month. For more details, tick the box on the coupon.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Units will be issued at the buying price(s) ruling on receipt of your application. Your personal passbook(s) confirming your investment(s) will be sent to you, normally within 7 days. Unit certificates will not be issued.

Additions and Withdrawals (minimum £50) may be made at any time by sending your personal passbook(s) to the relevant instruction form completed. Payment on withdrawal passbook to us with the relevant instruction form completed. The selling price of units ruling on the date of your instruction. Should the balance on your account be reduced below the receipt of your instruction. Should the balance on your account be reduced below the receipt of your instruction. Should the balance on your account be reduced below the receipt of your instruction.

Management Charges: An initial charge, equivalent to 5% of the amount subscribed, is included in the buying price of units. For larger investments this charge is reduced to 2.5% on units of £10,000 or more, and to 1.5% on units of £25,000 or more. On giving 3 months' notice, this may be raised to 1.5% (+ VAT) but the Managers have no present intention of doing so.

Unit Prices are published in the Daily Telegraph. As at 26 November, the buying prices of doing so.

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Long-term capital growth, valuable tax relief

in the
Minster Trust
BUSINESS
EXPANSION
FUND
HOTELS

Object: To offer qualifying investors the prospect of asset-backed capital growth through investment in the UK's expanding hotel industry.

Investment policy: Within this sector of industry, Minster Trust, assisted by hotel consultants Greene, Befford-Smith & Co, intends to invest in a balanced portfolio of sound, qualifying companies able to demonstrate well-conceived expansion plans. If required, up to 25% of the fund may be invested elsewhere.

Special discount for investment before 18th December, 1985.

Minimum investment: £3,000. Special arrangements are available for participation by practising accountants. The fund may be closed at any time at the Manager's discretion.

How to invest: You may apply only on the terms and conditions set out in the fund Memorandum. For your copy, please send in the attached coupon or telephone 01-623 1050.

Note: Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards. Before you invest you should consult your stockbroker, accountant, solicitor or other professional adviser. Approval of the fund has not been obtained for the limited purposes of paragraph 19(2) of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1983.

To: Mr. Ian Hildreth, Minster Trust Limited, Minster House, Arthur Street, London EC4R 9SH.
Please send me a copy of the Memorandum inviting investment in your 3rd Business Expansion Fund.
Please include me on your mailing list for future issues ☐

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone No. _____ T3011

Funds which invest via other unit trusts, our Managed Trusts are invested directly into the world's most promising markets.

As well as being highly rewarding, you'll find investing in our Managed Trusts less of a chore. For example, when your account is opened you'll be issued with a Passbook which makes it simpler to add to or withdraw from your investment at any time. It also lets you know exactly what your investment is worth.

Since the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, ideally you should regard your investment as long term.

Indeed, if you leave it with us for at least three years we'll pay you a bonus on withdrawal.

Why invest right now?

World markets are currently buoyant and in our view with shrewd management there is still money to be made.

Open an account with Sun Life's Managed Trusts right now and you'll get a special Christmas bonus. Provided your application is postmarked no later than December 14th, we'll give you an extra unit for every 100 you purchase.

Isn't it good that unit trusts have gone back to being simple yet effective?

SUN LIFE MANAGED TRUSTS

I/We wish to open a Managed Investment Account and have read the general information and am/am are over 18.

I/We claim the special bonus allocation of units (available in respect of all applications postmarked up to 14.12.85). ☐

I/We enclose a cheque payable to Sun Life Trust Management Ltd for £ (min. £500 per trust) to be invested in:

Managed Growth Trust £

Managed Income Trust £

Managed High Yield Trust £

Surname _____ BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

If there are joint applicants all must sign.

Signature _____

(Will be returned to verify authenticity of withdrawal)

Regular Savings Please tick box for details ☐

To: Sun Life Trust Management Ltd, 107 Cheapside, London EC4N 6DL.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.



مکتبہ دارالاحیاء

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FOOTBALL

Scotland handicap rivals of Liverpool and United in League race

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Manchester United and Liverpool are out on their own. Their mighty collision in midweek, a thunderous fourth round Mill Cup tie, confined them to the sidelines by the most talented sides in the land. To describe any other club as potential championship contenders is stretching generosity beyond a reasonable limit.

As if the gap between them and the rest of England were not extensive enough already, the Scots have helped to widen it still further today. While United and Liverpool have been allowed to retain all their international representatives from north of the border, three of their leading rivals have not been granted similar preferential treatment.

Chelsea, West Ham United and Everton are without Speedie, McAvennie and Sharp, a trio of striking weapons who are preparing for the second leg of their country's World Cup play-off in Australia rather than appearing for their clubs. In the case of West Ham, and particularly Chelsea, the loss could scarcely be more damaging.

Speedie, the scorer of 12 goals this season, is the one Chelsea player who might like McGrath, who put United ahead at Anfield last Tuesday.

ARSENAL (7) v Birmingham (20)

Both teams should be at full strength. Arsenal are expected to include Williams, who was sent off at Southampton last week, and Birmingham welcome back Clarke from suspension and Jones from injury.

VILLA (16) v Tottenham (12)

Gray, on his 30th birthday and St Andrews Day, is ruled out so Shaw is set for his first full appearance for Villa since August. Allen, yet to play in a League fixture this season, joins Hoddle in Tottenham's party of 14.

IPSWICH (21) v Sheffield Wed (5)

D'Arvy, who missed Ipswich's Mill Cup win over Swindon, could return. Sheffield Wednesday, unbeaten in their last nine League games, have taken a squad of 14 to East Anglia.

LIVERPOOL (21) v Chelsea (3)

Kenny Dalglish admits that he has one injury problem but will not disclose the nature of the victim. Burnshead, Hazard and probably Pates are all unavailable for Chelsea. Roughton, Jones and Murphy are expected to be their replacements.

Luton (8) v Man City (17)

Foster and Breaker are doubtful for Luton. Manchester City accepted their hosts' offer of a practice session on Luton's artificial pitch, but has been treated with a chemical powder to ensure that there is no frost on the surface today.

Rescue at hand for Swansea

Swansea City, £1 million in debt, are on the verge of being rescued by a London-based consortium headed by the financier Mike Anderson.

Directors and former directors of the third division club have signed 38-day option contracts, under which they will take over the club on a take-over basis. At the end of that period, the consortium hope to have negotiated settlement with all Swansea's creditors.

The existing eight-man board will continue to run the club, together with nominees of the consortium, who are paying the wage bill and the club's running costs for the next month.

Meanwhile, Swansea will ask for a 35-day adjournment in the High Court on Monday when the Inland Revenue's winding-up petition is again due to be heard. Swansea owe £102,000 in unpaid tax.

Iraq qualify for World Cup against all odds

Taif, Saudi Arabia (AFP) - Iraq qualified for the World Cup finals for the first time when they beat Syria 3-1 here yesterday, to take the second Asian place in the tournament. The first leg, in Damascus a fortnight ago, had ended in a goalless draw.

Hussein said gave the Iraqis a 27th minute lead and a narrow margin. The second half was a thriller, with the Iraqis leading 2-1 at the end of the first half, before Wadi Abdul Sill pulled Syria back into the match with a 54th minute penalty. Khalil Allakhi scored Iraq's third goal 71 minutes later.

Iraq's achievement is all the more notable as they had to play their four home matches on foreign soil because of the Gulf War.

Scots arrive

Melbourne, (AFP) - The Scottish team arrived here yesterday with manager Alex Ferguson quietly confident that Australia cannot make up the two-goal margin in Wednesday's final World Cup qualifying match. Ferguson shrugged off attempts by his outspoken Australian counterpart, Frank Ark, to unsettle the Scots before the second leg of the play-off. Told that Ark wanted the grass at Olympic Park left long to slow down the Scots, Ferguson retorted: "It doesn't worry me."

Roma inquiry

Rome (Reuters) - The Rome prosecutor's office is to investigate allegations by the Italian Football Federation that the club was involved in an attempt to bribe a French soccer referee in a European Cup match, judicial sources said here yesterday. Viola has denied the allegations.

Kuwait games off

Kuwait, (Reuters) - Kuwait has suspended league and cup games for 10 days after dismissing the board of the Football Federation in a row over alleged misuse of state funds.

Bad weather takes its toll in Scotland

In addition to the postponements brought about in Scotland because of the national team's World Cup match in Australia the following Scottish league matches have been postponed because of the weather. All in the second division: East Stirling v Berwick Rangers, Raith Rovers v Albion Rovers and Stranraer v Arbroath.

Snaw has also caused the postponement of the third division match between Darnley and Newport County. Inness among Torquay United's players means their fourth division match at Port Vale is off as well.

have punished Liverpool's square defence. The qualities of Dixon, which are to be found up in the air rather than on the ground, will be more easily contained.

Dixon will be challenged by Hanson, who was included in Scotland's squad a fortnight ago but is now excluded. So is Nicol, whose father is seriously ill, as well as Delgish, Liverpool's player-manager, who may yet select himself, if only as the substitute, in an otherwise unchanged line-up.

Even if Chelsea were armed with the explosive Speedie, they would doubtless be given few opportunities to shoot for a record. They have not won a League fixture at Anfield for 49 years.

Man Utd (7) v Watford (13)

Gray, signed for £275,000 from Aston Villa in midweek, makes his debut for United at left back. Watford await fitness tests on West and Roston before announcing their line-up.

Newcastle (11) v Leeds (19)

McCreery is ruled out for Newcastle. Reilly and Gascoigne are also doubtful. Not surprisingly, Newcastle's leading scorer, Ian Duff, will be unchanged with Cunningham making his second appearance.

QPR (9) v Coventry (15)

Rangers could include a midfield trio of 20-year-olds in Cooper, Karslake and Ince. Don Mackay took 18 Coventry players to train on the Loftus Road carpet and will assess their performance before naming his side.

So'ham (4) v Everton (6)

Dennis and Jordan are already out for Southampton. Townsend and Puckett may yet be. Wilkinson, signed from Grimsby last season, makes his first full appearance of the season for Everton.

West Ham (4) v WBA (22)

Parris comes into midfield to replace Dickens who moves into West Ham's attack. West Brom have lost one full back, Statham, through injury and regained another, Nichol, from suspension.

Upstarts strike fear in the first division

The best have yet to come to Wimbledon

The first division must be scared stiff of Wimbledon. Not so much of the prospect of facing their up-and-coming style (they have learnt to live, if a little uneasily, with their forebears, Watford and Sheffield Wednesday), more about what Wimbledon are short on - to be precise, supporters. Wimbledon are not meant to be a team like this.

Wimbledon could become the worst supported team ever to be promoted to the first division. They are already the worst supported team in the first division and are unbeaten in their nine home games this season, their average attendance is 3,600 - 18 per cent down on last season, when they finished in the bottom half of the table.

Dave Bassett, their happy-go-lucky 41-year-old manager, does not expect any startling growth in the attendance at Plough Lane should the team of the era, after first being relegated, return to the top.

"I should think it will go up to 3,700," he suggested.

We met at the club's training ground, its car park, unlike that of any other London club, is not a casual street with BMWs or even flashy Ferraris, but with 40-foot-long trailers. Wimbledon share their quarters with appropriately some might think, long distance drivers. It is a reminder that no matter how far Wimbledon have come or how far they go they will never change their station. It is almost as though success as come too fast for them. Since supplanting Watford in the League just eight years ago they have achieved promotion four times, finally pulling free of the fourth division's magnetic field (they have relegated twice) on route to their present lofty position. Even then they have had a problem keeping up with the past.

The Dons' non-League career is legendary. They became the first non-League club in 54 years to win on a first division ground when they beat Burnley in 1975. But they will be better remembered in the archetypal David-and-Goliath FA Cup run for the tie they eventually lost by a single goal to Leeds United, the team of the era, after first drawing at Elland Road. Two seasons later they lost to Jack Charlton's Middlesbrough on a penalty in a replay. Sell-out notices were relegated twice in the days when they reached three consecutive Amateur Cup finals and won three successive Southern League titles. They can be few men, if any, with such tales to tell their grandchildren as Bassett, who experienced most of these romantic moments and more. England was a half-back who won England's first FA Cup at Watford and Harslem, where he figured in the famous Cup victories over Exeter City and Brian Clough's Brighton. No wonder he says he feels for his players when they trot out to tinkle applause at home, never mind away from home.

Bassett's war with his opponents (and the first division) that the best has not yet been seen this season at Wimbledon. A total of 2 goals in 18 matches is a working rule for Wimbledon's prolific standards. Bassett said: "We're tightened up a little bit at the back but that doesn't

years. As it is, Liverpool will be aiming for their fourteenth successive victory at home, and the odds lie heavily in their favour.

The same can be said of United, despite all their casualties and their waning confidence. Albiston, released by Scotland with Strachan, has joined a list of absentees that includes Robson, Moore, Duxbury, Barnes and probably Hughes. But the resources that remain and now include Gibson should be powerful enough. Watford, who could also be depleted, have not won away this season.

Under normal circumstances, West Ham would be the strongest of favourites to take maximum points from the visit of West Bromwich Albion. But the absence of McAvennie has exposed their attacking limitations. Goddard, the natural replacement, has played only once with the reserves since being injured, so they have been forced to move Dickens up from midfield to partner Cottee.

Whitton, who has become a man for all positions in the reserves but is principally a forward, has been asked to wear the No 12 shirt in case the experiment does not work. Against any other defence, optimism would not be high. West Bromwich have conceded 43 goals, by far the most in the first division.

Everton, in danger of losing touch, are sure to be Southampton relatively more secure at the Dell, particularly if Bracewell and Steven fail to recover from slight injuries. Sharp's understudy will be Wilkinson, an under-21 forward, who will be linking with his senior England colleague, Lineker, for the first time this season.

Southampton will be celebrating their centenary, if nothing else, this afternoon. In a lavish programme of entertainments before the game, a parade of 100 masquers will be led by Rodriguez, the captain of the side that won the FA Cup in 1976, and Stokes, who claimed the lone winner against Manchester United.

Birmingham City could feature in a less joyous, though equally notable occasion, in falling down into the bottom three, they have not scored for 536 minutes, and if they lose to Arsenal at Highbury today, they will set a club record of nine successive League defeats.

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round

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Chorley v United; Morecambe v Grimsby; Southport v Gillingham; 3.15: Leyland Motors v Whiteley; 3.45: Bury v Boreham Wood; 4.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 4.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 5.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 5.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 6.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 6.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 7.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 7.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 8.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 8.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 9.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 9.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 10.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 10.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 11.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 11.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 12.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 12.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 1.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 1.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 2.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 2.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 3.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 3.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 4.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 4.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 5.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 5.45: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 6.15: Boreham Wood v Whiteley; 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RACING: CONDITIONS FAVOUR JENNY PITMAN'S STAR AT CHEPSTOW

Burrough Hill Lad should Rowe and Gifford keep ball rolling

By Mandarín (Michael Phillips)

Burrough Hill Lad, two of the best stallions in the world, is back in the saddle again in the Royal Ascot Chase at Chepstow today. Each time they have met before, Burrough Hill Lad has been triumphant, first in the Cheltenham Gold Cup two seasons ago and then at Wetherby and Kempton Park last December. And today I expect the score to be 4-0 to Jenny Pitman's "Lad".

In the handicap for this year's Hennessy Gold Cup Burrough Hill Lad was rated 13lb above his old rival. Today the difference is only 4lb. The fact that Burrough Hill Lad has run this season whereas Burrough Hill Lad has not could be to his advantage, but I am still happy to rely upon Mrs Pitman's judgement.

At Warwick on Thursday she told me that Burrough Hill Lad was fit enough following two private visits to Worcester racecourse and that he would win. And, as many who would disagree with her in the past will concede, the lady has a way of being right. So it is Burrough Hill Lad for me, just as it was last season when he beat Wetherby and by even further at Kempton.

Half an hour later Phil Tuck, his jockey, will have a second reason to celebrate if he can win the Ladbrooke Handicap Hurdle on The Man Himself, who looked in good heart at Ayr eight days ago when he won a similar race by six lengths.

At Sandown, Pridaunx Boy can win the Mecca Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle for the second time in succession, even with 18lb more on his back than he carried last year. Since the weights were published Pridaunx Boy has won a valuable race at Ascot, but he has not been penalised simply because the conditions for today's race state that there are no penalties

Newcastle off

Today's meeting at Newcastle was called off yesterday afternoon and there is an inspection at Towcester this morning. Yesterday's meetings at Leicester and Sandown were both abandoned.

Following an inspection yesterday afternoon, John Smith, clerk of the course at Newcastle, said: "We have two inches of snow. However, warmer weather is forecast and I am hopeful Monday's racing will go ahead. An inspection is planned for Tuesday morning to decide the fate of Monday's card."

Hugo Berman, clerk of the course at Towcester, said: "There's frost in the ground and more forecast. If all goes well, there will be racing. There are no problems at today's other meetings, Sandown Park and Chepstow."

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However, if his trainer, Mick O'Toole and his army of friends and admirers have their betting boots on today, as I suspect they will, Duplicator will start at appealing odds. So today's nap is Half Asleep to beat her name again and win the Doug Barren Handicap Hurdle at the end of the programme.

Bill Eley's mare has done this season a couple of favours already this season and looks set to provide a third over a distance she relishes when she will be ridden by Patrick Farrell, the young man who knows her best. As Farrell will claim 4lb, Half Asleep will carry only 9st 10lb. I find it hard to envisage Road to Mandalay, Whisky Eyes or Blueimit giving her this weight.

With Music Be Magic and French Union dropping out only the 13 fences on the Sandown course appear to stand in the way of a Desert Orchid winning the Henry VIII Steeplechase and thus remaining unbeaten over fences. To say only in my way of appraising his four-legged opponents this afternoon.

Lefrak City, one with proven form around Sandown could be a better bet to win the Tingle Creek Handicap Chase at the expense of Carved Opal and St. William, recent winners at Newbury and Ascot respectively.

Meanwhile, at Towcester, a fancy Fred Winter's chance of landing a double with Playboy (2.15) and Gold Bearer (3.15). Regal Pleasure, who missed what looked like a winning chance at Leicester yesterday because of the cold weather, has now joined his stable companion, Flaxen Tina, in the line-up for the Gayton Handicap Chase. While Regal Pleasure may well be the more gifted, Flaxen Tina is the safer jumper and she is preferred for that reason.

Oceans, ridden by crack north-country jockey, Chris Grant, was another winner by six lengths, at 14-1 in the Crowgway Novices' Hurdle. Oceans, trained at Bishop Auckland and a 19th winner for Deans Smith, was cheered by his supporters.

Sam Da Vinci, trained by Bob Champion, took the lead for Hywel Davies at the eighth fence of the Crowgway Novices' Chase. The three-year-old tried to make the rest of the running, but after jumping the last fence in front, began to tire and hung to the left.

Meanwhile, the 5-4 favourite, Perhaps Lucky, who had tracked Sam Da Vinci from halfway, was urged into the lead by Ross Arnold. The combination spared the line with a length to spare to give David Elsworth his 17th success of the season.

Elsworth said: "After my gelding won at Wincanton, he had a bit of leg trouble and I laid him off for a while. He really wants a faster gallop, and a bit better class race."

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keep ball rolling

Racing at Sandown Park yesterday was overshadowed as trainers and jockeys swapped news from Yeovil Hospital of Richard Lacey, the jockey, who was badly injured, and his wife, Beverly, killed in a crash coming back from Wincanton Races on Thursday.

Paul Barman, due to partner Yabls in the Kidgemoor Novices' Hurdle, elected to go to Yeovil Hospital to do what he could to support Lacey, his friend. Paul's customer, deputised on Yabls, who won by 10 lengths to give John Edwards, Ross-on-Wye trainer, his 19th win of the season.

Edwards was represented by his wife, Virginia, who said: "We've not run our best ones yet. Yabls has been running on firm ground in his last few races and appreciated the better underfoot conditions today."

The 13-8 favourite, Ballytrout, from the stable of the champion trainer, Fred Winter, was a disappointing fourth. His jumping led him down.

Other trainers who continued their good form were Josh Gifford and Desley Smith. Gifford's gelding, Sam Da Vinci, was a winner on 21-1 and his fifth this week - when Waffly Fryer, rated one of the fastest horses, he has trained - streaked away with the Malden Tangle Novices' Hurdle.

Ridden by Richard Rowe, who already had three doubles to his credit this week, Waffly Fryer won on his seasonal debut by 12 lengths from Private Views. The gelding was a 50th winner for owner, Geoff Hubbard, who regards Sandown as a lucky corner. His Shady Deal, also trained by Gifford and ridden by Rowe, took the 1982 Whitbread Gold Cup. "We won't hurry Waffly Fryer", he said.

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Lucky 13, but only just for Brendan Powell as his mount, Memberson, blunders at the last fence in Sandown's Surrey Racing Chase (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

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CRICKET

Qadir spin crucial as Pakistan level series

Lahore (Reuters) - Abdul Qadir spun Pakistan to a six-wicket victory over West Indies in the second one-day international yesterday when he took four wickets for 17 off only 5.3 overs.

West Indies, who won the first match of the five-match series by eight wickets, were dismissed for 173 with 22 balls left from their allotted 40 overs. Pakistan reached their target with nine balls to spare. A crowd of 30,000 watched West Indies make a solid start after Imran Khan had asked them to bat. Hayatullah and Richardson were the main batsmen for the West Indies in their first international with a hard-hitter 53.

But once Richardson was out the West Indies lost their way against Qadir, who won the man-of-the-match award for his fine effort.

Pakistan were steered to victory, in the face of accurate bowling and keen fielding, by Mohsin Khan, who scored a solid 43, and Javed Miandad, who hit a typically ebullient 41.

WEST INDIES
D. Hayatullah 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803

Saturday

Weekend television and radio programmes
Edited by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

مكتبة الفضل

BBC 1

What's a Mess, written and read by Peter Mair (p. 5.35) Children of the Adventure: Part nine of the adventure serial set in New Zealand at the turn of the century.

6.00 **Saturday Superstore** presented by Mike Smith. Among the customers are The Kranksies, Julian Lloyd Webber, Simon Le Bon, Nick Webber, and Alvin Stardust. Plus special expert Tim Furness and owl man Darrell Cunningham.

12.15 **Grandstand** introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus; 12.35, 1.25, and 1.55 Racing from Cheltenham; 1.10 News summary and weather; 1.15, 1.40, 2.10 and 4.20 **Snoozer**: the opening session of the 1985-86 season of the Coral United Kingdom Championship; 3.10 **Boeing**: a bantamweight bout between Ray Gibbody and John Farrell; 3.50 and 4.00 **Rugby League**: John Player Special Trophy second round match; 4.40 Final score.

5.05 **News** with Richard Whitmore. Weather. 5.15 **Sport/Regional** news.

5.20 **The Kranksies** (Electronic). The first of a new comedy series. The Kranksies' comedy series. The Kranksies' comedy series. The Kranksies' comedy series.

5.55 **The Noel Edmonds Late Late** Broadcast Show. The Whirly Wheeler. Tom Hardy. The Whirly Wheeler. Tom Hardy. The Whirly Wheeler. Tom Hardy.

6.45 **Bob's Full House**. Electronic bingo game presented by Bob Brown. The game is presented by Bob Brown. The game is presented by Bob Brown.

7.20 **Juliet Brown**. Inspector Longford investigates a possible affair between a school teacher and one of his pupils (CeeFax).

8.10 **Only Fools and Horses**. Del and Rodney come to accept Uncle Albert's presence and discover that he has hidden depths (CeeFax).

8.40 **News** and **Sport**. With Richard Whitmore. Weather.

8.55 **Championship Snooker**. Frames eight to 14 of the 31-frame final of the Coral United Kingdom Championship, introduced by David Vine from the Guild Hall, Preston. The commentators are Ted Lowes, Jan Karmah and John Asher.

11.00 **Film: The Ladykillers** (1955) starring Alec Guinness, Cecil Parker, Herbert Lom, Peter Sellers, Danny Green and Katie Johnson. Black comedy about a quartet of villains who plan a robbery behind the lace curtains of Mrs Wilberforce's lodging house. When the four commit the crime, Mrs Wilberforce discovers the truth about her lodgers and her friends and they plot to kill her - but the plans do not work out as intended. Directed by Alf Hitchcock.

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TV-am

6.55 **Good Morning Britain**, introduced by Mike Morris. Weather at 6.55. News at 7.00; regional report at 7.05; and sport at 7.15.

7.30 **The Wide Awake Club** for children includes news and weather at 8.25.

ITV/LONDON

8.25 **TX**. Two members of Tears for Fears talk to Sue Robble about their exciting last twelve months; Tony Slattery samples life in Paris. Plus cartoons and a quiz. 11.00 **Terraviva**. Science fiction adventures (p. 11.30 Mr Smith. Comedy series about an almost human orangutan.

12.00 **News** with Anne Leuchars. 12.05 **Saint and Greaves**. Ian and Jimmy with news from the football world and other sports. 1.10 **Wheeling from Cheltenham**. A bantamweight bout between Ray Gibbody and John Farrell; 3.50 and 4.00 **Rugby League**: John Player Special Trophy second round match; 4.40 Final score.

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5.20 **The Kranksies** (Electronic). The first of a new comedy series. The Kranksies' comedy series. The Kranksies' comedy series. The Kranksies' comedy series.

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6.45 **Bob's Full House**. Electronic bingo game presented by Bob Brown. The game is presented by Bob Brown. The game is presented by Bob Brown.

7.20 **Juliet Brown**. Inspector Longford investigates a possible affair between a school teacher and one of his pupils (CeeFax).

8.10 **Only Fools and Horses**. Del and Rodney come to accept Uncle Albert's presence and discover that he has hidden depths (CeeFax).

8.40 **News** and **Sport**. With Richard Whitmore. Weather.

8.55 **Championship Snooker**. Frames eight to 14 of the 31-frame final of the Coral United Kingdom Championship, introduced by David Vine from the Guild Hall, Preston. The commentators are Ted Lowes, Jan Karmah and John Asher.

11.00 **Film: The Ladykillers** (1955) starring Alec Guinness, Cecil Parker, Herbert Lom, Peter Sellers, Danny Green and Katie Johnson. Black comedy about a quartet of villains who plan a robbery behind the lace curtains of Mrs Wilberforce's lodging house. When the four commit the crime, Mrs Wilberforce discovers the truth about her lodgers and her friends and they plot to kill her - but the plans do not work out as intended. Directed by Alf Hitchcock.

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Peter Pears in Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes (Radio 3, 8.00 pm). And Siobhan Davies: A Mass for Man (BBC 2, 8.40 pm).

BBC 2

9.00 **CeeFax**. 11.00 **Open University**.

1.35 **Film: Before Dawn** (1933) starring Stuart Erwin and Warner Oland. Dying in a Venetian hospital, gangster Joe Valerio reveals to his doctor the whereabouts of a million dollar haul. Back in the United States two old ladies read about the criminal's death and realise that the money is hidden in their house. Directed by Irving Pichel.

2.35 **Film: The Price and the Passion** (1957) starring Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra and Sophia Loren. Adventure, based on the C. S. Forester novel, The Gun, about a group of Spanish guerrillas fighting the might of Napoleon's army. Directed by Stanley Kramer.

4.40 **Championship Snooker**. Coverage of the opening session of the final of the Coral United Kingdom Championship.

6.40 **Deutsch direkt** Lesson seven of the 20-part German conversation course (p. 1).

7.05 **World Bridge Championship**. Jeremy James talks to members of the winning team, and Peter Gifford discusses the highlights of the tournament.

7.35 **News and Sport**. With Richard Whitmore. Weather.

7.50 **Saturday Review** presented by Russell Davis. Garry Anderson, creator of Thunderbirds, talks about his art. Jane Thornton discusses her six weeks as a writer in residence to a mining town where she encouraged the wives to put in writing their experiences of the dispute; and barrister George Robertson reports on the copyright implications of scratch video.

8.40 **A Mass for Man**. A new dance work for television, choreographed by Robert Cohan, music by Geoffrey Burgon, and performed by London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

8.40 **Top Gear Rally Special**. Highlights of the Lombard RAC Rally.

10.10 **Film: Illustrious Corpses** (1976) starring Leo Verna, Alain Cuny, Max von Sydow and Fernando Rey. Set in an imaginary country, this thriller follows the investigations by a conscientious police inspector into the death of the public prosecutor. Directed by Francesco Rosi. Ends at 12.15.

12.15 **Concert**: part two. Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3. 1.00 **News**. Heinrich Schütz: secular music performed by London Baroque. Includes Guileme Hense, gleich Aureo; and Tagend and der beste Freund.

1.40 **English Fancies**: Purcell fantasias and concert music, by Jenkins. On record.

2.00 **Chamber Music**: The Nutcracker, Act one. Amsterdam Concertgebouw under Antal Dorati. Interval reading at 2.45.

3.40 **Mendelssohn Quartets**: Coult Spring Quartet play the E flat, G major, and the F minor, Op. 80.1. Domenico Scarlatti: Lionel Salter introduces a selection of keyboard sonatas.

5.00 **Jazz Record Requests**: presented by Peter Clayton. 5.45 **Forum**: Peter Clayton, A. S. Bryant, Chris Peachment and Bryan Robertson discuss, inter alia, the production of Kafka's Metamorphosis, Ronald Harwood's play The Interceptor, and Szabo's film Colonel Red.

6.35 **The Living Point**: Alan Brownjohn's selection of verse. 6.15 **Peter Gifford**: Act two. Interval reading at 10.10. Act three at 10.15.

11.00 **Musica Antiqua**, Cologne: Marie's La Sonnerie de Saint Genevieve du Mont de Paris; Lesclair's Overture in A, Op. 14, Op. 14; Galleme's Sonata in G minor, Op. 17 No. 6; the Bolshoi's Concerto in D, Op. 20 No. 6; Couperin's Sonata (La pucelle); Corneille's Carillon de Rouen. Directed by Reinhard Goebel (vol. 1).

11.57 **News**. 12.00 **Closedown**.

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CHANNEL 4

12.30 **Channel 4** Racing. The 1.00, 1.30 and 2.00 Mecca Bookmakers' Handicap Hurdle races from Sandown.

2.15 **Film: Caravaggio** (1986) starring Anthony Quinn, Michael Sarrazin and Jennifer O'Neill. Adventure story about man who is sent to look for the high spirited daughter of a United States senator. He discovers that she is living in central Asia with a tribe of Bedouin nomads. Directed by James Fargo.

4.35 **Film: The Remarkable Rocket** (1979) A cartoon, based on an Oscar Wilde story, about a rocket, preparing to entertain at a royal wedding.

5.05 **Breakfast**. (CeeFax) (p. 1).

6.00 **The Puppet Men**. Part two of the six-episode dramatized documentary about puppeteer and author Walter Wilkinson.

8.40 **World of Animation**. 7.00 **News** summary and weather followed by 7 Days, David Konstant, the new Roman Catholic Bishop of Leeds, talks about the Vatican Synod and papal authority. Peter Barker and David Jason (p. 1).

7.30 **The Planets**. Part four of Heather Couper's series examines Mars.

8.00 **Beats of the Heart**. Part 11 and the second programme of the series. The history of Romanies through their music and song.

9.00 **Upstairs, Downstairs**. Georgina, slightly worse for wear through drink, borrows the Bellamy's car and drives towards Sussex (CeeFax) (p. 1).

10.00 **Hill Street Blues**. Captain Furillo argues with his girlfriend in court; and has to contain a gang war that threatens after a young girl is killed accidentally by a gang after her brother (CeeFax) (p. 1).

11.00 **Who Dares Wins**. Off beat comedy starring Julia Hills, Rory McGrath, Jimmy Mulville, Philip Pope and Tony Robinson.

11.45 **Scotch Myth**. A St Andrew's Day repeat of the controversial (in Scotland) programme first seen on New Year's Eve, 1982, tracing the history of Scotland and the Scots. With John Birt, Alex Norton, Bill Paterson, Walter Carr, Chic Murray and Robbie Coltrane. Ends at 1.30.

1.00pm **The News** headlines. Roy Hudd with Chris Emmett, June Whitfield and The Huddles. 1.30 **Sport** on 2. Includes football: regular music performed by London Baroque. Includes Guileme Hense, gleich Aureo; and Tagend and der beste Freund.

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11.57 **News**. 12.00 **Closedown**.

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Radio 4

On long wave, 1.00 VHF stereo. 5.55 **Shipping**. 6.00 **News Briefing**. Weather. 6.10 **Prize**. 6.30 **News**. 6.40 **Prize**. 6.55 **Shipping**. 7.00 **News**. 7.10 **Prize**. 7.30 **News**. 7.40 **Prize**. 7.55 **Shipping**. 8.00 **News**. 8.10 **Prize**. 8.30 **News**. 8.40 **Prize**. 8.55 **Shipping**. 9.00 **News**. 9.10 **Prize**. 9.30 **News**. 9.40 **Prize**. 9.55 **Shipping**. 10.00 **News**. 10.10 **Prize**. 10.30 **News**. 10.40 **Prize**. 10.55 **Shipping**. 11.00 **News**. 11.10 **Prize**. 11.30 **News**. 11.40 **Prize**. 11.55 **Shipping**. 12.00 **News**. 12.10 **Prize**. 12.30 **News**. 12.40 **Prize**. 12.55 **Shipping**. 1.00 **News**. 1.10 **Prize**. 1.30 **News**. 1.40 **Prize**. 1.55 **Shipping**. 2.00 **News**. 2.10 **Prize**. 2.30 **News**. 2.40 **Prize**. 2.55 **Shipping**. 3.00 **News**. 3.10 **Prize**. 3.30 **News**. 3.40 **Prize**. 3.55 **Shipping**. 4.00 **News**. 4.10 **Prize**. 4.30 **News**. 4.40 **Prize**. 4.55 **Shipping**. 5.00 **News**. 5.10 **Prize**. 5.30 **News**. 5.40 **Prize**. 5.55 **Shipping**. 6.00 **News**. 6.10 **Prize**. 6.30 **News**. 6.40 **Prize**. 6.55 **Shipping**. 7.00 **News**. 7.10 **Prize**. 7.30 **News**. 7.40 **Prize**. 7.55 **Shipping**. 8.00 **News**. 8.10 **Prize**. 8.30 **News**. 8.40 **Prize**. 8.55 **Shipping**. 9.00 **News**. 9.10 **Prize**. 9.30 **News**. 9.40 **Prize**. 9.55 **Shipping**. 10.00 **News**. 10.10 **Prize**. 10.30 **News**. 10.40 **Prize**. 10.55 **Shipping**. 11.00 **News**. 11.10 **Prize**. 11.30 **News**. 11.40 **Prize**. 11.55 **Shipping**. 12.00 **News**. 12.10 **Prize**. 12.30 **News**. 12.40 **Prize**. 12.55 **Shipping**. 1.00 **News**. 1.10 **Prize**. 1.30 **News**. 1.40 **Prize**. 1.55 **Shipping**. 2.00 **News**. 2.10 **Prize**. 2.30 **News**. 2.40 **Prize**. 2.55 **Shipping**. 3.00 **News**. 3.10 **Prize**. 3.30 **News**. 3.40 **Prize**. 3.55 **Shipping**. 4.00 **News**. 4.10 **Prize**. 4.30 **News**. 4.40 **Prize**. 4.55 **Shipping**. 5.00 **News**. 5.10 **Prize**. 5.30 **News**. 5.40 **Prize**. 5.55 **Shipping**. 6.00 **News**. 6.10 **Prize**. 6.30 **News**. 6.40 **Prize**. 6.55 **Shipping**. 7.00 **News**. 7.10 **Prize**. 7.30 **News**. 7.40 **Prize**. 7.55 **Shipping**. 8.00 **News**. 8.10 **Prize**. 8.30 **News**. 8.40 **Prize**. 8.55 **Shipping**. 9.00 **News**. 9.10 **Prize**. 9.30 **News**. 9.40 **Prize**. 9.55 **Shipping**. 10.00 **News**. 10.10 **Prize**. 10.30 **News**. 10.40 **Prize**. 10.55 **Shipping**. 11.00 **News**. 11.10 **Prize**. 11.30 **News**. 11.40 **Prize**. 11.55 **Shipping**. 12.00 **News**. 12.10 **Prize**. 12.30 **News**. 12.40 **Prize**. 12.55 **Shipping**. 1.00 **News**. 1.10 **Prize**. 1.30 **News**. 1.40 **Prize**. 1.55 **Shipping**. 2.00 **News**. 2.10 **Prize**. 2.30 **News**. 2.40 **Prize**. 2.55 **Shipping**. 3.00 **News**. 3.10 **Prize**. 3.30 **News**. 3.40 **Prize**. 3.55 **Shipping**. 4.00 **News**. 4.10 **Prize**. 4.30 **News**. 4.40 **Prize**. 4.55 **Shipping**. 5.00 **News**. 5.10 **Prize**. 5.30 **News**. 5.40 **Prize**. 5.55 **Shipping**. 6.00 **News**. 6.10 **Prize**. 6.30 **News**. 6.40 **Prize**. 6.55 **Shipping**. 7.00 **News**. 7.10 **Prize**. 7.30 **News**. 7.40 **Prize**. 7.55 **Shipping**. 8.00 **News**. 8.10 **Prize**. 8.30 **News**. 8.40 **Prize**. 8.55 **Shipping**. 9.00 **News**. 9.10 **Prize**. 9.30 **News**. 9.40 **Prize**. 9.55 **Shipping**. 10.00 **News**. 10.10 **Prize**. 10.30 **News**. 10.40 **Prize**. 10.55 **Shipping**. 11.00 **News**. 11.10 **Prize**. 11.30 **News**. 11.40 **Prize**. 11.55 **Shipping**. 12.00 **News**. 12.10 **Prize**. 12.30 <

Commandos are blamed for most of hijack deaths

From Austin Sammut, Valletta

Inefficiency and heavy-handedness by Egyptian commandos who stormed the hijacked EgyptAir Boeing 737 at Luga airport on Sunday may have been directly responsible for most of the 59 deaths among those who were trying to save.

It emerged yesterday that the explosive used to blow open the luggage hatch was far too powerful: It blew off the commando leader's legs, and blasted a large hole in the floor of the passenger cabin.

Between six and eight passengers died in that explosion, including a year-old Canadian child. Several bodies were later found in the luggage hold below.

All of the passengers' shrapnel wounds must also have been caused by Egyptian explosives, since the hijackers' grenades have been found to be of a recently-developed incendiary type.

The information contradicts many reports of the hijackers having blown themselves up, together with Palestinian children and other hostages.

It also invalidates theories that the aircraft's main door was booby-trapped with a grenade, which killed several passengers. Even this explosion must have been caused by commandos blowing in the door.

Maltese officials have also confirmed that the fumes which caused most deaths were probably created by Egyptian explosions rather than by the hijackers' grenades.

This is very difficult to establish, and may be clear only after experts have finished their work, but one senior official said of such allegations, "they're not far from the truth." It was clear that most corpses in the hangar-mortuary had died from inhaling fumes.

The picture may only become clear when the investigating magistrate, Dr Noel Cuschieri, has completed his report. He has not yet held an inquiry on the aircraft itself.

Meanwhile the condition of Mr Omar Marzouki, aged 20, the alleged hijack leader, remains stable in his tightly-guarded ward at St Luke's Hospital.

It cannot be ascertained

whether he has a head injury compatible with a hatchet blow, which would establish his identity as the leader - the man the aircraft captain, Mr Hani Galal, knocked unconscious - since everything to do with him is top secret.

A source close to the hospital, however, said that he had had a thoracotomy, a surgical intervention in the chest, and that a part of his lung may have been removed.

Meanwhile Dr Victor Buhagiar, a 27-year-old houseman at St Luke's who boarded the hijacked plane shortly after it landed on Saturday, has described how he certified one hijacker dead and was not allowed to examine a seriously wounded Egyptian sky marshal.

The hijacker was sitting in the front row near the main entrance and wearing an oxygen mask. There was blood all over his body, but Dr Buhagiar did not establish the location of the bullet wounds.

On the opposite side of the aisle he could see another injured man on his back on the floor. When he asked to examine him a hijacker who had kept a gun pointed at him throughout, ordered him to leave.

● **ATHENS:** Mr Rodney Wallis, the head of security for the International Air Transport Association, who visited Cairo and Athens to investigate how the hijackers' weapons were smuggled aboard, said there was concern about the weak link in airport security among people who have access to the aircraft on the tarmac (Mario Modiano writes).

"Because of the high standards of passenger screening at Athens and indeed in Cairo, the weakness is likely to be where the attention of the industry is now turning - the ramp," he said.

● **CAIRO:** Mr Ahmed Rushdi, Egypt's Interior Minister, said yesterday that Malta was ready to hand over the surviving hijacker.

"The Malese Government has expressed its readiness to hand over the terrorist to face trial in Egypt," he said.

Egypt asked for the extradition of Mr Marzouki on Tuesday. **US accused, page 6**



Journey's end: Ian Botham (right) celebrates with his fellow-walkers (from left) Chris Lander, Phil Rance and John Border

Top hats and tails as Botham completes his 874-mile walk

By Ivo Tennant

At 2.50 yesterday afternoon and after 35 days and 874 miles, the equivalent of 70,400 cricket runs, Ian Botham completed his charity walk from John O'Groats. He has raised almost £400,000 for leukaemia research, a figure he hopes will reach £1 million after his walk through London on Monday for which he expects the support of big businesses.

Needless to say the England cricketer arrived in style. For the last leg he and the three men who have kept up with him all the way, John Border, the brother of the Australian cricket captain Allan, Chris Lander, a journalist, and Phil Rance, whose father died of leukaemia a year ago, sported top hats and tails.

When the end was near - 25 miles were walked on the last

day - the pace of Botham and his entourage seemed to quicken. Through Cornwall's quicke, heather, mist and drizzle, Botham strode easily on. At noon he was in Penzance High Street where the Christmas lights winked out of the granite sky and spectators cheered and waved umbrellas.

Then it was into the home run: a brief stop to change at the First and Last Inn in England, before the final leg, downhill now. Three television crews and some 1,000 spectators awaited Botham, as well as a letter of congratulation from the Duke of Kent, the patron of the Leukaemia Research Fund. Botham then tossed his top hat into the multitude.

The success of Botham's walk (his own idea) has been marred by the scuffle he had with a policeman on Wednes-

day afternoon. Yesterday an MP called on the Home Secretary to investigate why police took no action over the incident in which Botham allegedly punched an officer.

Mr Peter Bruinvels, the Conservative member for Leicester East, said: "According to the reports I read, Botham behaved disgracefully - and it is equally disgraceful that the police are not apparently charging him. If he has broken the law he should suffer the consequences, no matter how famous he is or how much money he is raising for leukaemia research."

However, the MPs for St Ives and Caithness, David Harris and Robert Maclean, have tabled a motion describing his walk as "a magnificent achievement which has won admiration from one end of the country to the other."

Court threat to Todd over union's elections

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Ministers are preparing to take on Mr Ron Todd, the left-wing leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, if he fails to comply with new law on elections for his union executive.

The message from Westminster is that if Mr Todd refuses to follow the strict letter of the Trade Union Act, 1984, which came into force last month, he will face the humiliation imposed on Mr Arthur Scargill in the courts.

Elections for the 40-strong TGWU executive are being held in two parts. Present workplace ballots for 26 territorial representatives could fall foul to the Act if union members are refused an opportunity to cast a secret vote at their place of work.

The only legal alternative is a postal ballot, which is not favoured by the union.

Against the background of the alleged ballot-rigging during Mr Todd's election as general secretary, ministers will be campaigning for union members to insist on their rights. They will also urge individual members to complain to Mr Matthew Wake the independent Certification Officer, if they are denied their new rights.

The Certification Officer is empowered to carry out quasi-judicial inquiries which can be followed up in the courts. The courts have the power to insist upon secret postal ballots.

Ministers have also been incensed by the apparent intention of Mr Todd to continue with the union's customary elections for 14 trade group places on his executive.

Indirect elections are in clear breach of the Act, which demands an individual secret ballot for all executive posts.

Liverpool stores up long term loan crisis

Continued from page 1

revenue accounts which triggers the Government's rate-capping mechanism.

Additionally, the PWLB loan matures in 15 years and carries a fixed interest rate of 10.625 per cent, requiring gross repayments of about £5 million a year.

Liverpool already has loans of more than £700 million in total, needing repayments of about £70 million year. Up to £150 million in loans also have to be rolled over each year.

Mr Redington said yesterday that while the arrangements were not perfect "we will be in a better state than seemed possible last year. We will enter next year with no substantial deficit and no penalty from the Government."

He said that earlier this year it looked as though the Government would withdraw £90 million this year and the same amount next year in direct grants to Liverpool.

Mr Tony Byrne, Liverpool's Finance Committee chairman, said: "There is no doubt at all that if the Tory Government were to be elected at the next general election, the capital resources of this authority will be exhausted."

Labour leaders yesterday stepped up their onslaught against Liverpool's Militant leaders with a warning that they would not be allowed to "besmirch" the party's reputation (Anthony Bevin writes).

Mr John Cunningham, the Opposition spokesman on the environment, said in a BBC radio interview on the *World at One* programme that the Liverpool leadership had created its own crisis and its own difficulties and he hinted that a Labour Government might even refuse to bail the city out.

He said: "It seems to me, on the basis of what we know so far, that rate increases have just been deferred... because no government is going to bail out an authority which refuses consistently to balance its own books."

"I think the responsibility for the debts which accrue and the period over which they have agreed to repay lies fairly and squarely with councillor Byrne and his colleagues."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

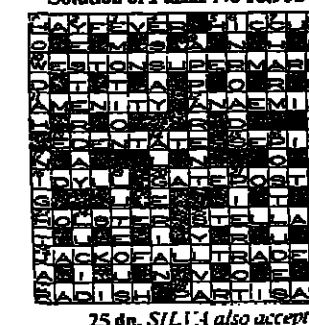
Today's events

Exhibitions in progress

Personal Choice - a celebration of twentieth century photography: Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter, Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Jan 4 1986).

Recent Paintings and Drawings

Solution of Puzzle No 16,902



25 dn. SILENCE also accepted.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,908

A prize of The Times Atlas of World History will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9JF. The winners and solution will be published next Sunday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mrs A. Harrison, 3 Barton Meadows, Truro, Cornwall; J. W. Roberts, Journeys, Eton College, Windsor, Berks; Michael V. Casar, 128 Helen Buhagiar Street, St. Lucia, Malta.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mon to Sun 10.30 to 5.30 (ends Feb 23 1986).

Music

Concert by the BBC Singers, Canterbury Cathedral, 7.30.

Concert by Leicester University Orchestra Society, Church of St John the Baptist, Clarendon Park Road, Leicester, 7.30.

General

Arts and craft fair, Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York, 10 to 5.

The Pyramus Game performed by York Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society, York Theatre Royal, last day, 2.30 and 7.30.

Christmas craft fair with demonstrations of craftwork, Wadebridge Town Hall, Cornwall, 9.30 to 5.30.

Book fair at The Royal George Hotel, Knutsford, Cheshire, 10 to 5.

Book fair at the Athenaeum Rooms, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, 10 to 5.

Book fair at the County Assembly Rooms, Lincoln, 10 to 5.

Dover Food Fair, Dover Town Hall, 12 to 6.

Decorative blown glass exhibition and demonstrations, Central Library, Exeter, 10.30 to 4.30.

Similar items on sale at the Craft Shop, Betsize House, Bradford Street, Walsall, W Midlands.

Dickens in Italy, in words and music, in aid of Landoff Cathedral restoration, St Peter's Hall, Fairwater, Cardiff, 7.

Quilts, bedcovers and cushions made by students of Joan York on show at The Regent Centre foyer, High Street, Christchurch, Dorset, last day, 10.30 to 5.

Halley's Comet: National Museum of Wales, Main Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends April 28).

Sir Frederick Handley Page - a centenary display: Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums, 40 Clarence Street, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends Nov 30).

Tomorrow

Royal Engagements

Princess Margaret President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends the Children's Royal Variety Performance at the Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, London, in aid of the NSPCC, 6.30.

Music

London Wind Trio plays works by Mozart, Beethoven, Britten, Ibert, Cooke, Poulenc and Milhaud: Oxford Chamber Music Society, Maison Francaise, Northam Road, Oxford, 2.15.

The Oxford Philharmonia: Hindemith, Elgar, Brahms, Sheldoni Theatre, Oxford, 8.

The pound

Australia 9

Belgium 5

Canada 5

Denmark 5

France 5

Germany 5

Greece 5

Hong Kong 5

India 5

Italy 5

Japan 5

Netherlands 5

Portugal 5

Spain 5

Sweden 5

Switzerland 5

Taiwan 5

USA 5

Yugoslavia 5

Other currencies

Rate for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Bank of England. P.C.D. rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index 377.1.

Share appeal

Oxfam, the international aid and development agency, is asking individual and corporate shareholders to consider donating a few shares from their portfolio, or part of a rights or scrip issue, to help the new cause in their place. As with the roses, bend them over horizontally.

Azaleas are appearing now in the florist's shops. They are very good value, as if they are looked after, they will grow better and give pleasure for many years. Buy now - prices will go up as Christmas approaches. This applies of course to most plants.

Anniversaries

TODAY

Births: Andrea Palladio architect, Padua, 1508; Sir Philip Sidney, poet and courtier, Penshurst, Kent, 1554; Jonathan Swift, Dublin, 1667; Theodor Mommsen, historian, Garding, Germany, 1817; Mark Twain, Florida, 1835; Sir Winston Churchill, prime minister 1940-45, 1951-55, Blenheim Palace, 1874.

Deaths: Oscar Wilde, Paris, 1900; Edward John Eyre, explorer and colonial official, Tavistock, Devon, 1901; Wilhelm Furtwangler, conductor and composer, Baden-Baden, 1954; Sir Terence Rattigan, Bermuda, 1977.

Today is the Feast of Saint Andrew one of the twelve Apostles and the patron saint of Scotland.

TOMORROW

Births: Alexandra, Queen Consort of Edward VII, Copenhagen, 1844; Ernst Toller, dramatist and poet, Samoisheim (Saarocin, Poland), 1893.

Deaths: Henry I, reigned 1100-35; Lyons-la-Forêt, Normandy, 1135; Lorenzo Ghiberti, sculptor, Florence, 1482; Saint Ignace, Camero, Jesuit martyr (canonized 1970), executed, London, 1581.

In the Garden

It is time to check fruit and vegetables, corns and tubers in store and remove any that are showing signs of rotting. Bring any likely to be damaged by frost into a frost-free room, cellar or greenhouse.

Birds are interested now in pecking buds off fruit trees, ornamental trees and bushes. Where this trouble occurs regularly, protect the trees and bushes by spraying with a bird repellent such as Stayoff, or fessoon them with the rayoff "spider web" material Scarabaw.

Put out water and food for birds regularly. It is probably best to do this as soon as possible, in the mornings, as birds may make an hors d'oeuvre, if they are kept waiting of whatever your garden can offer.

If not already done, finish pruning ramblers roses, cutting out growths that flowered this year and tying in new ones. Prune climbing roses too, removing old growths if there are new growths to take their place, and ending any tying there down as near to horizontal as possible.

If not already done, remove old stems of loganberries tayberries and blackberries that carried fruit, and new canes in their place. As with the roses, bend them over horizontally.

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Roads

London and South-east: The Woolwich ferry will not be running from today until Sun. Monday because of maintenance work. Building of a footbridge will close A12 Eastern Avenue at Barkingside, just W of Barkingside, today and tomorrow. Traffic diverted. (A12 Eastern Avenue, Eastbound carriageway, reduced to two lanes between Kent boundary and Black Prince interchange).

The Midlands: M5 closed from 10pm today until 10am tomorrow, between junctions 4 (Lydney A16) and 5 (Pewsey). Diversion via A38, M5 Corsham roundabout between junctions 2 (Oxford) and 3 (Oxford), M5 Midland, Southbound entry slip at junction 2 is now open. A38 closed between junctions 4 and 5. Diversion via A429 and A41.

Wales and the West: M5 Between junctions 12 (Gloucester) and 13 (Stroud) Gloucestershire: Inside and centre lanes closed. A417 Gloucester, Gloucester Road, Gloucester: Inside and centre lanes closed. A417 Gloucester, Gloucester Road, Gloucester: Inside and centre lanes closed. A417 Gloucester, Gloucester Road, Gloucester: Inside and centre lanes closed.

Scotland: M8 Between junctions 32 and 33, Lanarkshire: on central reservation, westbound lanes closed. A71 Glasgow: on central reservation, westbound lanes closed. A71 Glasgow: on central reservation, westbound lanes closed. A71 Glasgow: on central reservation, westbound lanes closed.

Information supplied by the AA

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 12).

Today's are on page 12.

Today's are on page 12.

Today's are on page 12.

Today's are on page 12.

Today's are on page 12.

Today's are on page 12.

Today's are on page 12.

Liverpool stores up long term loan crisis

Continued from page 1

Revenue accounts which the Government's revenue...
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November 30-December 6, 1985

THE TIMES SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Scofield on the couch

Actor extraordinary and the most private of men, Paul Scofield breaks his silence to talk to Alan Franks about the intuitive approach he brings to his art and his latest challenging film role. Photograph by Snowdon

It sounds too much of a cliché to be true: film-maker with tiny budget seeks major actor with international reputation. Rehearsal time, approx five weeks; low wages guaranteed: leading roles at NT or RSC level an advantage; only household names need apply.

The scene shifts to Sussex, winter 1983. Outside, a Christmas card landscape; inside a man of mature years with a strikingly familiar face is recovering from an accident on location which broke his leg but could easily have cost him his life. The script has fallen with a thud on to the doormat and, having read it at a single sitting, the actor accepts the lead role at once.

I paraphrase crudely, yet that is the essence of what happened. The writer, 42-year-old Hugh Brody and his associate, Michael Ignatieff, wanted Paul Scofield for the part of Alexander Sherbatov, a Russian aristocrat exiled by the Bolshevik rising and reappearing, late in life, the experience of his psychoanalysis by the brilliant but penniless Viennese doctor, Sigmund Freud.

On the face of it, it is odd that an actor of Scofield's magnitude should have become involved with such an apparently modest venture (total budget £400,000 - £250,000 coming from the British Film Institute). It is an illusion which he dispels quickly and utterly: "It's completely in character for me to choose something not being produced on a big scale. It just attracts me - what else can I say? I did a similar thing with *Bartleby* in 1971 if you remember, an adaptation of the Melville book."

Scofield, as everyone has read, is full of privacy and reserve, guarding a blamelessly secure domestic life in the seclusion of Balcombe, Sussex. So rarely does he talk about his life and career that the received wisdom is that he is either downright evasive or else actively courting an enigma.

The "famous privacy", as he calls it, seems to amuse him. If you raise the matter, he looks at you as if to say: "Well, in that case, what am I doing talking to you?"

Part of the answer is that he wants to speak about *Nineteen Nineteen*, the film, rather than about himself. You seldom hear anything but extravagant praise for him from other members of a notoriously bitchy profession - only a kind of disappointment about the lack of self-revelation. It is as if this remarkable face, at 63, so full of past as well as presence, has been issued to the wrong person. On closer examination the truth seems to be that he is one of those actors who makes a spiritual rather than an intellectual encounter with his material - a condition which is not so conducive to talk.

What can I say? It's always intuitive, my reaction. The only alternative to intuition is surely calculation, and that would be a terrible mistake. A calculation can only be made in terms of success or failure, and you can never diagnose a script as being one hundred per cent success. That method of calculation is invalid. I don't see any other way than my own: what bells does it (the script) strike? What form of recognition does it call up?

I knew little about the period, little about the theory of psychoanalysis, except what we all know. I didn't read up on it - well, only peripherally. Yes, you could say I was keeping my own naïveté."

Hearing him speak, in a suburban London pub at lunchtime, one is struck by a tremendous sense of Scofield's ordinariness; that discovery is not only relieving but also slightly comic, when you set the manner against the colossal stage persona.



Colossal presence: Paul Scofield is still an acting enigma after 40 years

be a writer, a don, a barrister in retirement, something rather important in the FO. Anything really. What most are recognizing of course is an older version of Sir Thomas More in the 1966 film *A Man for All Seasons*.

Just as he has been doing for more than 30 years, Scofield commutes daily when working in London, often getting up long before dawn to make the drive if a film rehearsal schedule demands it. The son of a village schoolmaster at Hurstpierpoint, he remains addicted to his native county and can often be seen on high windy walks along the ridge of the South Downs.

Even as a schoolboy at Varndean Grammar in Brighton he knew that acting was for him, and right at the start of his career at Birmingham Rep in 1940, the established actors of the day, including John Gielgud, sus-

pected that someone rather special had arrived. It is tempting to ask about his alleged reluctance to accept a knighthood, but it is a delicate (not to mention private) matter. And besides, the film's the thing.

Even from the ill-defined picture that emerges, it is clear why his acceptance of the role *Nineteen Nineteen* is wholly in character and how his preoccupations and those of the writers have a common ground.

For it is a complicated, multi-layered film, in which two people set about the examination of their own pasts, and in so doing reveal the interplay between huge historical forces of 20th-century Europe and private lives glimpsed at their most intense. Because of the way in which memory itself turns into a member of the cast, *Nineteen Nineteen* is more

Prost than Freud. At certain points Scofield's performance is so acute that it allegedly brought the entire film crew - not usually the most emotional of bunches - to tears.

The figure of Freud at the end of the First World War absorbed Brody and Ignatieff. He was by that time 60 years old and so poor that he lacked even the money to heat his consulting room. The writer's starting point was an obscure and unfinished paper which he wrote in 1920 called *The Psychogenesis of Homosexuality in a Woman*. It bore evidence, all the more intriguing for its sketchiness, of a young woman, patient's challenge to Freud's authority. In the finished screenplay that character has

been, as at were, imagined into life and provided with a full biography both before and after her encounter with the psychoanalyst.

"For me," says Scofield, "the revelation was, if I can put it this way, the mystery of history... the mystery of accidents which affect lives that seem to have been determined by springs of emotion and will, but which are none the less turned in quite different directions."

As he talks, lucidly but often haltingly, it becomes obvious that there is a parity of opinion between himself and the novelist John Berger, who has written an afterword to Faber's published screenplay of *Nineteen Nineteen*. In it he says: "It is becoming more and more apparent as our century nears its end, that the most valid testimonies to its history need

A performance so acute it brought the entire film crew to tears

to include the intimate, the almost sacredly private, and the gigantic historical currents that have rendered it indescribably cruel. If people speak of the end of ideology, it is because ideology, in its passion for the average and the typical, hates the private."

Scofield would never express himself in those terms, but the conclusions are identical. There is another matter which, even this late in his career, pre-occupies Scofield as a professional.

After a long time in the profession you know there's absolutely nothing to be gained from any sort of plan of action by which you try to calculate the effects on audiences or potential employers. Forget it. You can only do the work you want to, and do it as well as you can.

I have hardly had any reaction so far from people not involved in the making of the film, except from my wife Joy Parker. She loved it, and she does not always love everything.

Is there not an irony about Scofield's ability to act in a film like this? Has it not been made possible only by his pre-eminence as a performer on the conventional stage and screen?

"Yes, I accept that, but you see I don't ever want to recognize the value of myself as a name. I don't want anything to do with it. It would go against the grain, against all my instincts, oh, it's all about privacy again, is it?"

Well, people do say that he is forever turning down the offer of a knighthood. "No, it's not true that I actively find ways of putting myself out of the running. I would refer you to the story of Sir Peter Hall and Melina Mercouri."

This is a reference to an anecdote about the Greek cultural minister who, during a recent tour of the National Theatre's *Coriolanus* to Athens, insisted on calling the director Mister Hall. Her reason was that in a socialist state, like Greece dignities such as "Sir" had no place. "Mister" itself was a sufficient term of approbation.

"So you see, I am answering the question. I have a very conventional attitude towards what one can and can't say. I've always understood that one isn't supposed to talk about this, and my desire to conform there means that I want to be polite. So I avoid that sort of question."

Nineteen Nineteen opens at the Curzon Mayfair, London on December 6. The text of the screenplay is published by Faber and Faber (£3.95)

MILESTONES

THEATRE
1942 Stephen Underhaft in *Major Barbara* and *Horatio* in *Hamlet* with the Travelling Repertory Theatre Company.
1943 Alex Morden in *The Moon is Down* at the Whitehall Theatre.
1946-47 Henry V at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon.
1949 Konstantin in *The Seagull* at the Lyric Hammersmith.
1955 *Hamlet*, on tour, in Moscow and later at the Phoenix Theatre.
1956 The priest in the stage adaptation of Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory*.
1958 First appearance in a musical as Johnnie in *Expresso Bongo*, Saville Theatre.
1959 Sir Thomas More in *A Man for All Seasons*, Globe Theatre.
1962 *King Lear*, title role at Stratford and the Aldwych.
1965 *Timon of Athens*, Stratford.
1967 *Macbeth*, Stratford.
1968 *Laurie in The Hotel in Amsterdam*.
1970 *Uncle Vanya*, Royal Court.
1973 *Alan Watts in Savages*, Royal Court and Comedy.
1977 *Volpone*, National Theatre.
1978 *A Family*, Haymarket Theatre.
1979 *Salieri in Amadeus*, National Theatre.
1980 *Othello*, National Theatre.
FILMS: 1954, *Carve Her Name With Pride*; 1964, *The Train*; 1966, *A Man for All Seasons*; 1971, *Bartleby*; 1973, *Scorpio*; 1974, *A Delicate Balance*.



Pre-eminent performer: top in the film *Carve Her Name With Pride*; above, as *Othello*

SATURDAY

Back to the boards: Miranda Richardson on stage: page 44

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Supreme star: with Maria Schell in *Nineteen Nineteen* and John Hurt in *A Man for All Seasons*

For Ronald Harwood, author of *A Family*, in which Scofield played Freddie Kilner in 1978, it is "the sheer purity of spirit" which stands out. "I fear it's very boring when there's hardly a bad word to be said about someone. But when he acts he brings a kind of saintliness to the part and to the play. I don't mean that he's all ethereal, because he's a terrific character actor as well. He just seems to have this belief in the spiritual dimension of all individuals."

"Even the character he played in *Expresso Bongo* had that quality. But only because Paul was playing him. Paul of course has always been very handsome, with that glorious speaking voice. But there's also that purity of diction, almost classless. You know, it was Wolfelt. I think, who first spotted him as the clown in *Winter's Tale* 40 years ago."

"I don't know him at all," says Frank Finlay, who plays the unseen part of Freud in *Nineteen Nineteen*. "But I can think of no other actor of comparable standing who is so unassuming about working for money."

"I can remember him in plays which I can't even remember the titles of, from the days when I was a student at RADA. I used to sit up in the gods at the Piccadilly, lost in admiration. He was probably even using this very dressing room that I'm in now. What a thought."

"Everyone says of him that he never loses his temper. Apparently there was one occasion when he was in rehearsal for the Scottish play at Stratford, and something went terribly badly wrong, and he simply said: 'Not funny'. That was enough."

very strong and very gritty. And yet I believe his finest work was possibly in *The Power and the Glory* in 1956. That was really memorable.

"He's most unpredictable, very hard to pin down. I loved his acting well before he was a star, as early as his Birmingham days. I directed him once, in *The Complaisant Lover*, and he was absolutely wonderful to work with."

Scofield's *Lear* is commonly cited as his greatest performance, but Sir John Gielgud, another distinguished incumbent of the role, has his own preference. "I agree that it was a fine *Lear*,

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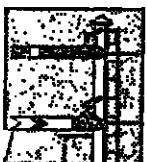
Great train trips, from mystic East . . .

Going anywhere on a decent train is so much less harrowing than dicing with juggernauts in the middle lane, or being cajoled into staying strapped in on aeroplanes. And there is even a chance of a good lunch.

One may not be much struck on the piano bar show-bizzery of revival trains like the Venice Simplon Orient Express as an experience in themselves. But it must be great fun to go skirting that way, something that can be done this winter.

Hopelessly addicted train romantics have Thomas Cook's International and Overseas timetables as their bedside reading and put together improbable or real rail journeys of their own devising. There are of course ready-made railway adventures too. London to Hong Kong, more than 9,000 miles in 41 days, via Sverdlovsk and Datong, costs £2,730 with P & O Air Holidays. The journey is called the Central Kingdom Express. Think of it like cruising without the bother of putting to sea. And you could try some of these other great train journeys . . .

Bunk beds and kitchen duties were part of an Indian venture for Geoffrey Watkins



From my corner top bunk I looked down on a colourful line of underwear, shirts and socks swaying side by side as the express train thundered and rattled through the darkness of the Indian countryside. On other berths, high and low, and on collapsible beds on the floor, were the shapeless mounds of my travelling companions, sleeping soundly after another day's journeying.

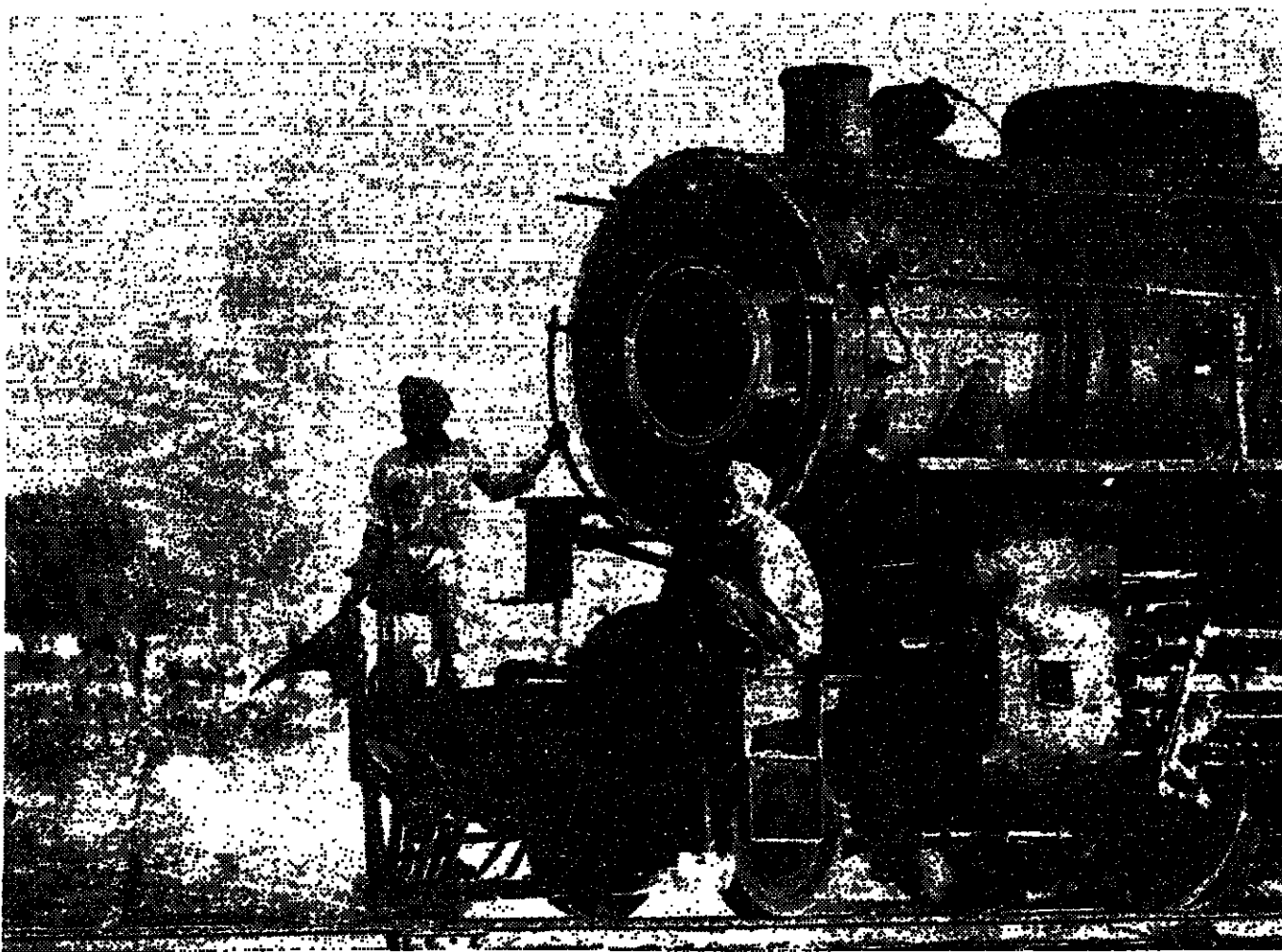
I was one of 24 people - men and women aged between 23 and 71 - who had flown independently to Delhi for the 30th Butterfield's Indian railway tour. It was an unforgettable 32-day journey that took us from the Himalayan foothills to the tip of India, across the great central plain from Madras to Bombay and on to Agra and the Taj Mahal - an exhausting, exhilarating odyssey.

Our home for a month was the Bogie, a converted wooden railway carriage 25 metres long, and it aroused attention wherever we went. The Bogie has a living-room-cum-dormitory for 12 people at each end, two washrooms with showers and four Asian-style squat lavatories. There might have been little privacy but a cheerful camaraderie was adequate compensation.

In the middle of the Bogie was the small kitchen where Ashley and Jane Butterfield - organizers of the trip and people of unflagging energy and good humour - performed minor miracles over two buckets filled with glowing charcoal. There was also a dining-room seating 10 that doubled as a reading and writing room, and a post office.

In such a confined space (and it could be claustrophobic at night) neatness was essential; yet when everything was stowed away it was surprising how much room we seemed to have. Besides putting our bedding away and washing up, we all had tasks which were posted on a rota. The varied routine included kitchen duties like opening tins, peeling tomatoes, making toast and preparing vegetables for the evening meal, as well as dashing on to the platform for water wherever the train stopped and going to the markets for supplies.

Nothing was wasted on the Bogie. Fruit and vegetable peelings were thrown on to the line for the cows, pigs and goats, while at the end of each meal all the uneaten rice and potatoes would be given to beggars who clustered around the train when it stopped.



Passage through India: steaming across a magic land on an exhausting, exhilarating odyssey

By the end of our journey we had become almost as familiar with the railway stations and sidings as Simonon had been in his younger days in Belgium. The Bogie was only a small item in India's vast railway network with its metre gauges, steam and diesel engines, so it was often shunted. When we left in the morning it was seldom from the same place we stopped at nightfall.

After dinner we sat around and talked, read, wrote cards and letters, or did our dabbly in plastic buckets. By nine o'clock the early risers - the older people mainly - prepared for bed, while at the other end the night owls were talking,

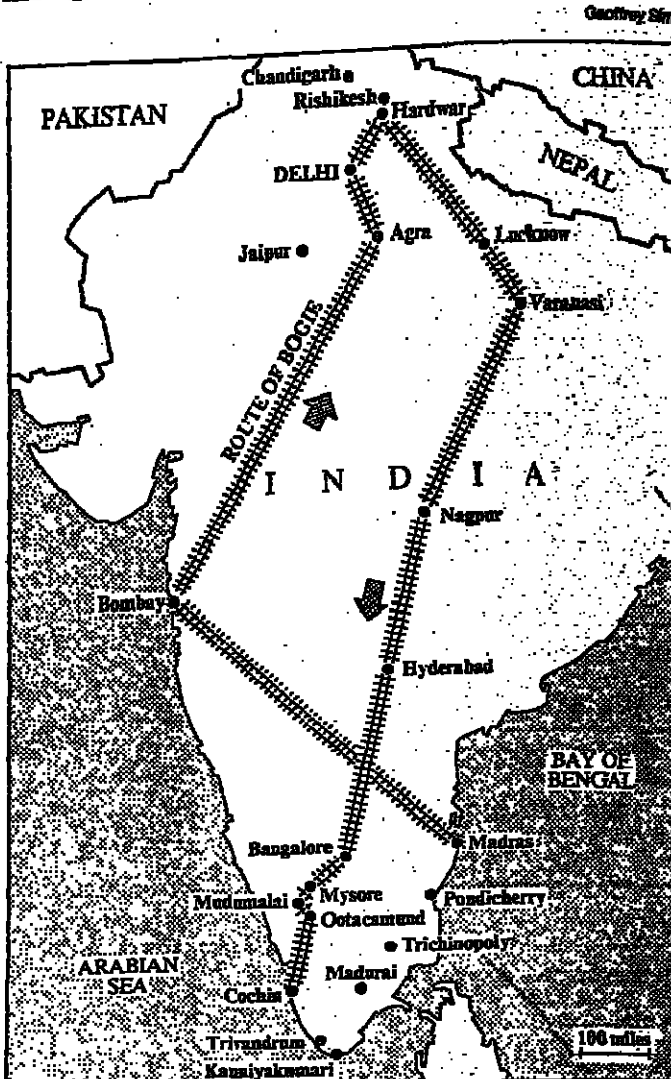
reading, playing cards or chess. It was at bedtime that the lack of space was most evident. After the bedlam of noise and movement in Old Delhi we were glad to reach Rishikesh in the Himalayan foothills where the Beatles came to meditate. We lay on white sands or bathed in the Ganges in a setting of craggy beauty and tranquillity. That night, back in Hardwar, the devout floated candle-lit offerings down the sacred river in small baskets of leaves in a scene of flickering magic.

Between Hardwar and Lucknow we mounted a dacoit patrol for rail robbers who worked in gangs on the roofs of trains, cutting their way in via washrooms or lavatories. Some years ago 16 cases were reported from the Bogie this way while the passengers slept. We joked about it but took turns to stay awake just the same.

From Lucknow to Varanasi and the olive green waters of the Ganges, onwards and southwards we rolled, the doors and windows wide open and our legs dangling over the tracks as we watched the changing landscape flash by. We saw the Golconda Fort outside Hyderabad, the gardens in Bangalore, and Mysore where the illuminations of the maharajah's palace were like a blinding beautiful dream.

At Madumalai game park we rode elephants through jungle where tigers roamed. Ootacamund, the hill station to which engine builders retreated from the heat of the scene, was like Switzerland in spring. From here we travelled by narrow gauge and log railway over mountains and through valleys covered in tea plantations to Cochin, where ferries bustle between the islands and the narrow streets smell of spices. Vasco da Gama is buried here.

It was from Cochin that the party broke up before meeting again at Madras. Some sought rest in the hills or by the sea, but my ex-bomber pilot colleague and I pushed on to the tip of

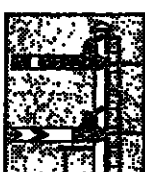


TRAVEL NOTES

Butterfield's Indian Railway Tour, Burton Fleming, Driffield, East Yorkshire (026 287 230). The season runs from August through to March of each year and all tours for the remainder of the 1986-87 season are fully booked. A brochure detailing itineraries for the 1986-87 season is now available. Prices for next year start at £450 for an 18-day tour from Delhi to Cochin. This covers land arrangements there but not travel to India, which Butterfield's can also arrange. Meals taken on the train, excursions and accommodation are included in the basic price. Spending money of £150 should be ample for the longest of next year's journey's, a 28-day trip.

The plain man's guide to Spain

Simon Scott Plummer takes a leisurely seven-day jaunt through Andalusia



The latest luxury train to offer old-style comfort and service to the well-heeled traveller is *Al Andalus Express*, which began touring Andalusia in September. Tourist trains are not new to Spain. For the past three years the *Transcantabrico* has been running seven-day trips through the north-west from June to October, and at weekends and on bank holidays the *Tren de la Fresa*, a steam loco pulling pre-war wooden coaches, runs between Madrid and the Bourbon summer palace in Aranjuez.

However, *Al Andalus Express* represents a bigger investment (about £3.5 million) than those two and is designed for a worldwide clientele. The train leaves Madrid's Atocha Station at 10.30am on Mondays. For the 30 or so miles to Aranjuez it is hauled by a "Mikado" type 2-8-2 steam loco built by North British in Glasgow in 1952. For the rest of the journey *Al*

Andalus Express is pulled by a 3000 kW electric loco, built under licence from Mitsubishi of Japan. All the travelling is done by day and the train stands in stations overnight.

A four-hour stop in Aranjuez allows you to visit the palace and its gardens, which border the Tago, to see the Casa del Labrador, a kind of Petit Trianon, and to have lunch. The train spends the first night at Linares-Baeza, just inside Andalusia, from where you travel by bus to the picturesque old town of Ubeda for dinner in the 16th century town hall. Day two takes you to Córdoba, with a chance to visit the great Mosque and the Jewish quarter, and then to Seville, where you dine and spend the night. Wednesday is devoted to the Andalusian capital, with a tour in the morning of the cathedral and La Giralda, its famous bell tower, the Moorish Alcázar and the narrow streets and little squares of the Santa Cruz quarter. Jerez is the stop for Thursday with visits to a sherry bodega, a clock museum and in the evening, to a casino in Puerto de Santa María on the coast near Cádiz; and Friday in Málaga, from where there is an excursion along the Costa del Sol to Torremolinos, Mijas, Marbella and Puerto Banus. The train sets off from Málaga early on Saturday morning and, after a two-hour stop in Antequera, reaches Granada for lunch. In the afternoon you visit the Alhambra, the chief glory of Moorish art in Spain, the Renaissance palace of Charles V and the Generalife garden, and, on Sunday morning, the cathedral and the adjoining Capilla Real, which contains the remains of the Catholic Kings. The train

leaves for Madrid shortly after noon and arrives in Atocha at 9.55 that evening.

The "hotel" for this week-long tour of Andalusia consists of eleven coaches. Three of them date from the 1920s but have been so extensively restored that they are more like new rolling-stock in the style of that period.

The first has a television and video for showing films, a small dance floor, with music coming either from tapes of an electronic organ, and a bar. The second has another bar with fruit machines, card tables and a second video corner. The third, the restaurant car, has armchairs and sofas with floral covers and tables with inlaid woodwork. The most attractive decorative feature of all three coaches is the marquetry.

The three sleepers are modern and not as luxurious. They are standard TEN (Train-Europe-Nuit) rolling-stock with air-conditioning and telephones to communicate with the guard at the end of each carriage. Although the bunks are comfortable, there is not much room in the compartments for two and for three it would be extremely cramped.

Next to the sleepers are two shower coaches, converted goods wagons with ten showers each. The remaining three coaches are occupied by the crew: the train carries a staff of 16 for 66 passengers.

A week on *Al Andalus Express* costs 225,000 pesetas (about £990) if you have a compartment to yourself, 139,000 pesetas (£610) if you double up and 119,000 pesetas (£520) for a triple. The price includes accommodation and travel, continental breakfast and a buffet lunch between



Touch of class: dining Andalusian style

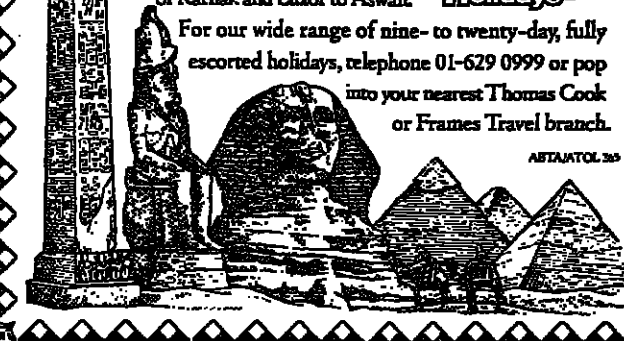
Granada and Madrid on the final day, but not drinks at the bar, all excursions by bus in the places visited, all meals, with wine, and all shows. The train can also be chartered for up to 88 people - an extra sleeper is added - for visits to other parts of Spain.

The Andalusian tour gives passengers an opportunity to see a fascinating region without the bother of driving and moving from hotel to hotel. The train is comfortable and the service excellent. But I have some reservations about the size of the sleeping compartments, particularly the lack of hanging space. Also, I hope they will stop turning off the air-conditioning in the early hours of the morning, as they did when I took the train in July.

If you care about creases in your clothes, bring a travelling iron: there are no laundry services on board. Finally, allow a day to recover your "land legs" when you get back to Madrid. The day coaches rock considerably on the Andalusian track, giving you the impression at the end of the trip of stepping ashore from a ship.

EGYPT

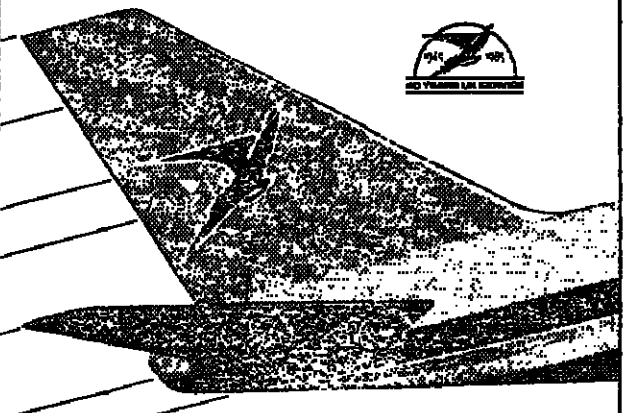
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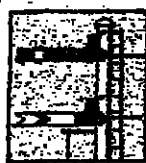
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TRAVEL

...to the magnificent West



Most Americans would have you believe that this is very definitely not the age of the train on the other side of the Atlantic. Their pride in their national institutions turns to rather shame-faced apology in the case of the railroad system. It is true that many passenger lines in North America have gone, leaving large states like Oklahoma without any services at all. It is also true that Amtrak, the nationalized body which took over the running of passenger trains from the old private railroad companies in 1971, is curiously shy about publicizing its services.

But Britons, used to overcrowded, bumpy tracks, points failures and mechanical breakdowns, will find travelling on American trains a remarkably pleasant and carefree experience. Rail travel in the United States is certainly slower than it is here, but the average speed on many lines is around 55 miles per hour — and it is also cleaner, more

A ticket to ride with Ian Bradley across the Rockies from Denver to Salt Lake City

comfortable and considerably cheaper. It seems by far the best way to see the country, infinitely preferable to the insulated boredom of flying, or the comparative discomfort of long-distance bus travel.

Like the commuter services of British Rail's Southern Region, the lines in the densely populated north eastern states of America do not provide a good introduction to the country's rail system as a whole and should be avoided. It is better to board one of the long-distance trains which cross the country, and to make a trip from New York to New Orleans or from Chicago to San Francisco.

On these lines Amtrak has introduced its new Superliners, double-decked coaches with wide reclining seats, plenty of leg-room, lots of luggage space, drinking water dispensers and many toilets and washrooms, equipped with every possible modern convenience including special "infant changing tables" on which to attend to nappies.

Amtrak's special All Aboard America fares make long-distance train travel fairly cheap. The country is divided into three regions and for \$150 (£100) you can travel anywhere within one of these for up to 30 days. Travel in two adjoining regions costs \$250 and for \$325 you can roam the whole of the country by train for a month.

I chose to travel in the western region which includes the line across the Rocky Mountains, certainly the most scenic and spectacular railway journey in the United States and possibly in the world. Until early 1983 this line, which links Denver and Salt Lake City, was operated by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, the last of America's private railway companies to run passenger trains. Although the transfer of the passenger service to Amtrak has meant the disappearance of the company's magnificent 35-year-old vista-domed deco carriages, it has also meant a more comfortable ride through the mountains in the air-conditioned Superliners.

The three massive diesel engines which pull thirteen coaches and assorted baggage vans up to a height of 9,230ft and across the Continental Divide are in fact hauling three different trains, which start off together from Chicago and divide at Salt Lake City. 1,600 miles and 32 hours later: the California Zephyr heads for San Francisco, the Desert Wind is bound for Los Angeles, and the Pioneer heads for Seattle and the North West coast.

Those who simply wish to travel the spectacular stretch across the Rockies from Denver to Salt Lake City (a 14-hour journey starting early in the



Rockie railroad: a view of the rugged mountain scenery in Colorado.

morning and ending in the late evening) can do so for a return fare of only \$75.

The service on the trains is of a very high standard. Across the Rockies, there are two dining cars. In the evening they offer meals at various prices. There are also two glass-roofed observation cars with buffets selling hot and cold snacks and drinks. There is even a piano bar, although, to my disappointment, the pianos have apparently been removed to make way for more seating. Meal prices are reasonable.

Like so many Americans, the Amtrak staff seem particularly keen to please, without being ingratiating, and display an infectious good humour and friendliness. The train's tannoy system is in constant use by the

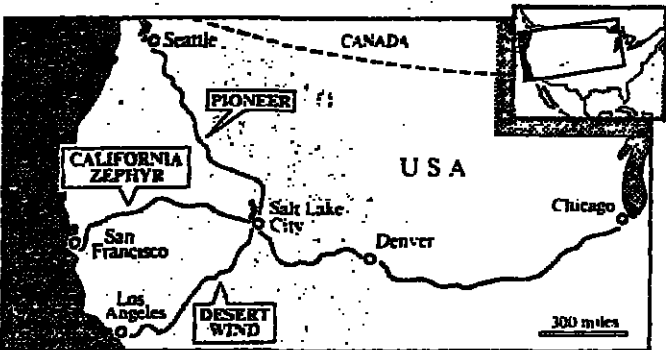
conductor to make helpful and humorous comments. At every change of crew we are introduced to the new engineer (driver) and fireman: "Up there in the cab, we've got Old Go-Get-Em Gordy and More-Throttle Mike, and we could be arriving just a little ahead of schedule tonight, because Gordy was talking about a movie on television that he wants to see."

The enforced politeness and the constant badinage can be irritating but it is useful to have details about the passing scenery pointed out.

The long duration of rail journeys in the United States leads to the development of an atmosphere on board not unlike that on an ocean liner, with passengers agreeing to meet

each other for cocktails in one of the lounge cars, or forming a party for dinner. It also makes for long and interesting conversation with fellow travellers.

And if, by any chance, boredom should set in, there is always the view, a magnificent changing panorama of mountains, valleys, deserts, plains and swamps and glimpses of the names on the wagons of the private railway companies who still own and maintain the tracks over which Amtrak operates and whose long freight trains still have priority over passenger trains: names like Union Pacific, Cotton Belt and the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe which cannot fail to stir the hearts of those who have been brought up on the songs and legends of the American West.

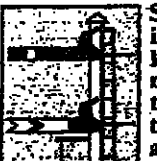


TRAVEL NOTES

Amtrak tickets may be obtained in this country through offices of Thomas Cook, but, unlike Greyhound bus passes and airline tickets, there is no price advantage in buying them over here. There are no special deals for overseas visitors.

Long-distance trains have sleeping berths in addition to the reclining seats, but the latter are very comfortable for over-night travel. The cost of sleeping berths depends on the route and distance travelled. An economy bedroom on the Denver to Oakland journey would cost \$85, a de luxe bedroom (with toilet and shower) \$266. There are two beds in each.

Wild life on the Polar Bear Express



Shakespeare got wrong, you know, there is more to a name than you might think. Take away the name and that big yellow diesel that runs across the Canadian wilderness from Cochrane to Mooseonee would be just another backwoods rail link. Call it the Polar Bear Express and it becomes an experience, one of the world's great train rides.

Cochrane, in the north of Ontario, has always been a railway town, catering to the timber trade, the silver mines and the North Woods trappers, so that even now the great attractions offered are still a visit to the railway museum (an engine and four carriages) and a conducted tour of the plywood factory. But what really draws the visitors is the Polar Bear Express. It runs north from Cochrane all the way to Mooseonee, an even smaller town on the shores of James Bay, an inlet of the mighty Hudson Bay and the end of the line for travellers to the Canadian Arctic. Go north from Moose-

Where trappers and Cree Indians roam, Rob Neillands samples roughest Canada

nee and you must travel by canoe or float-plane; this is the end of the line and the wilderness starts here. There are two ways of travelling on the Polar Bear Express. Devoted tourists take the one-day round trip excursion with observation car, piped music, beer and piano sing-ins, a relentless commentary from your on-board guide, and a

quick sprint round the Hudson's Bay Company moose factory at the far end; apart from the spectacular scenery you might be anywhere.

Travellers will opt for the much slower "local", which takes a full two days for the round trip, and is usually full of trappers, hunters, rock hounds, fishermen, and Cree Indians. It stops at all the little stations, or

anywhere you might want to get off by prior arrangement with the driver and conductor, all the passengers rallying round to unload canoes, or the trap lines or any amount of heavy baggage, before the train clanks away, leaving a little knot of people waving goodbye beside the rail track through the wilderness.

At the railroad Mooseonee lies littered on the bleak shores of James Bay. It is a cluster of timber houses and outfitting stores where hunters and trappers stock up for the wild. Mooseonee, however, has history. The Hudson's Bay trading post, or factory, on Moose Island out on the river, was established by the marvellously named "Company of Merchant Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay" back in 1673.

This particular post is still going strong, with shops, a blacksmith's shop built in 1740, and an excellent museum devoted to the early days of Canada and the history of the fur trade. By the time it had to surrender the concession to the newly-independent Dominion in



All aboard: the Polar Bear Express at Mooseonee

1868, the Hudson's Bay Company was one of the great successes of the Empire, the ruler over land which amounted to half the size of present-day Canada.

Today, all that has shrunk to a little measure at Mooseonee, but in a place so remote the past tends to endure. The hotel and bars are full of trappers, the sidewalks lined with the fairly friendly but always impassive Cree Indians, who will, if pressed, offer you a canoe trip to Fossil Island. Or they will show you the braided moosehide hangings and Cree language prayerbooks in their own Church of St Thomas.

Tourism has brought some benefits to the Cree, giving them work as guides to the hunters, fishermen and bird-watchers who paddle north to see the bears. Fly on to the Polar Bear Provincial Park, a wildlife sanctuary 300 miles to the north-west, or simply explore the large tracts of wilderness that lie at the end of a journey on the Polar Bear Express.



TRAVEL NOTES

Information on visiting Mooseonee by the Polar Bear Express can be obtained from Tourism Ontario, Ontario House, Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4QS (01-830 6404). Accommodation is limited so it is essential to book; it can be arranged in Canada through Ontario Northland Toronto Office, 805 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S1Y9 (010-1-416-1-585-4288). The best time to make the trip is in late spring or in August or September. Flights to Toronto by Air Canada cost from £284 Apex return.

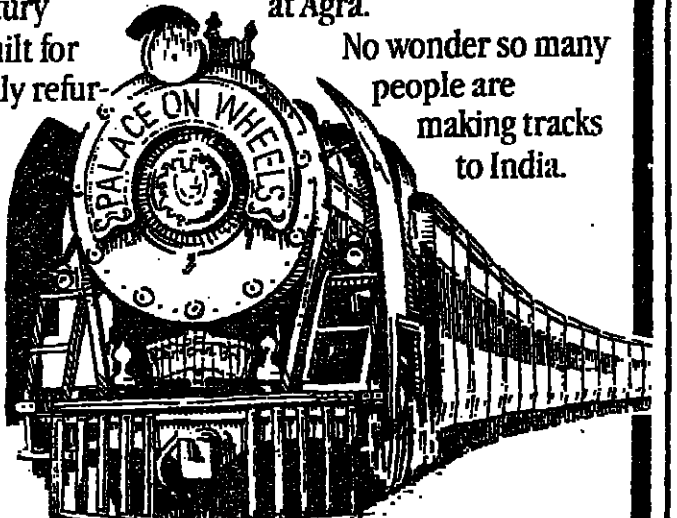
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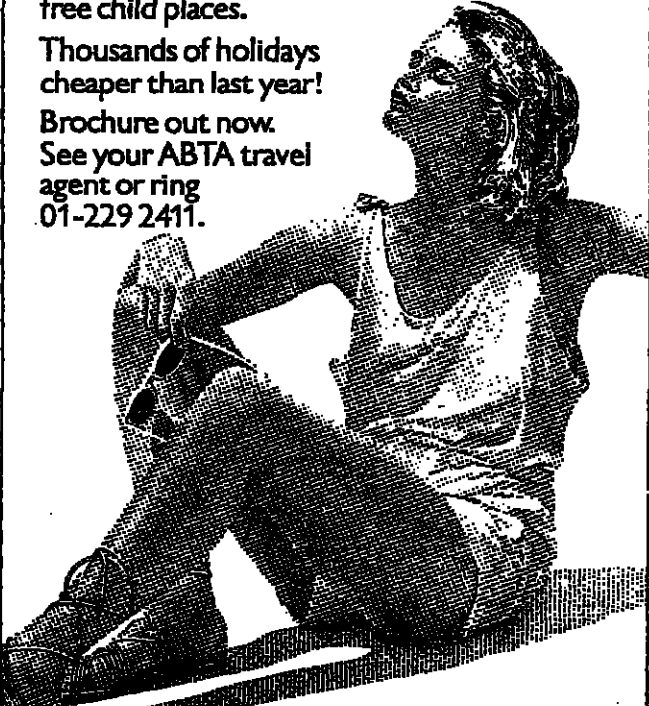
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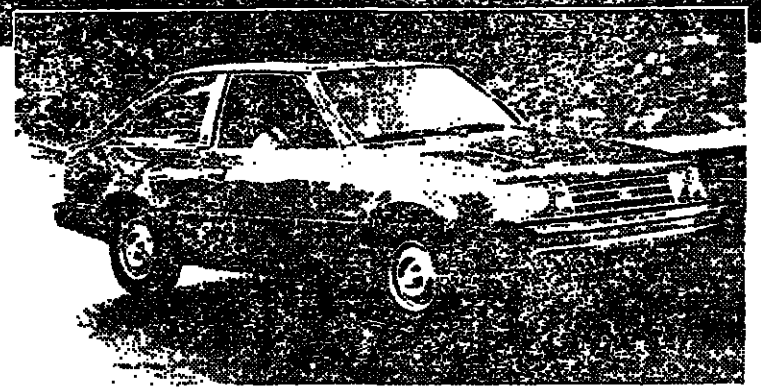
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SHOPPING

SKI WHIZ

Encouraged by reports that a thick blanket of snow already covers the pistes, thousands of enthusiasts will be thronging ski shops around Britain next week searching for the best equipment at prices they can afford.

The increasingly fashion-prone market has encouraged ski manufacturers to change models frequently, killing the public demand for old models as quickly as possible by making them look dated. Every graphic trick is used to make a ski stand out from its rivals on the rack. Franz Klammer, World Cup downhill star turned businessman, has resorted to marketing his first "autographed" skis (with matching poles) in a colour one would hardly associate with his hell-for-leather style of skiing - shocking pink.

But after 20 years of striped multi-coloured skis, designers are running out of original ways to fill that three-inch by six-foot strip. The new trend is to create visible performance features. Some skis are changing shape, with their sides, normally perpendicular, cut to an angle (as in the Fischer Trapezoid and Head Radical models) and two skis from Atomic have acquired tightly-waisted centres or flared tails to accentuate the way they turn (Atomic HV3SL and Micronic FES).

Dynastar, the fast-expanding subsidiary of French ski manufacturing giant Rossignol, is making skis with distinctive and controversial features on the top surface. Last year their racing models appeared with red capsules on the tips containing a lead disc sandwiched in foam. This, it was claimed, absorbed the vibration of the ski - a problem which causes a skier to lose his grip on hard snow. After two racers won Olympic gold medals on

Mere technical excellence is no longer enough for today's fashion-conscious skiers. David Goldsmith casts a critical eye over the latest developments, from the highly practical to the gimmicky

Recreational skiers, unique amongst sports participants for their lack of fitness and hatred of discomfort, have bankrupted many a company which did not produce ergonomically-advantageous boots or ski bindings. Several old-established boot companies have been shaken hard by Salomon's success and are now hurriedly designing their own rear-entry models to retrieve lost market shares.

One option being offered this year, for instance, is the electrically-heated boot. With present standards of insulation, cold feet can still be a problem with many ski boots, and heated boots could catch on.

Many skiers who skied on the rocky pistes of last winter did serious, often irreparable damage to their skis. Those using the latest skis with sintered bases had a little less trouble.

These harder bases are made through a process of compressing the ski sole plastic into a drum and then shaving it off.

They were originally made for racing since they are faster and absorb wax more readily but they also resist damage much better than ordinary soles. Now widely available on a recreational ski above £100, they are worth looking for.

When pistes thaw and freeze to sheet ice even the sharpest ski edges have a tendency to skid, and it can be easy to lose control. Parablack Edge Grip, soon to come on the market, is an additional section of ski edge, only 3½ inches long. It screws into the ski's top surface and is bent at a right angle, so that it sits against the sidewall of the ski and overhangs the existing ski edge.

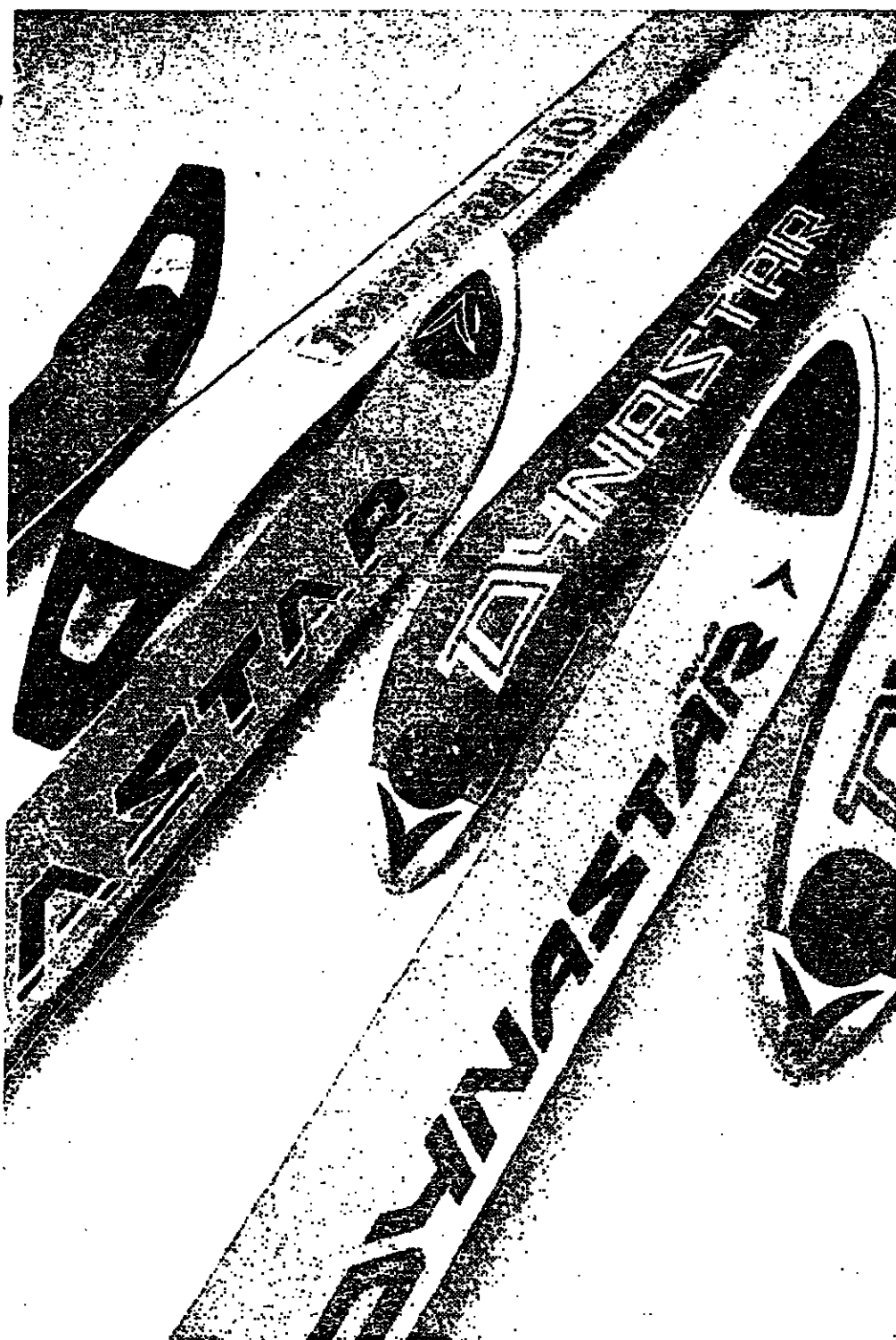
David Goldsmith is equipment editor of Ski Survey magazine.

these skis Dynastar claimed irrefutable evidence.

This year's non-racing Dynastar models have appeared with holes in their tips and a plastic air duct to improve the aerodynamics. The manufacturers have been a little more modest about this feature, conceding that it is likely to have little or no effect at normal recreational speeds (holes have only previously appeared on downhill or super giant slalom racing skis, used at 40-80mph). This "Airflow System", however, seems destined to become a conversation piece.

The ski boot market is increasingly dominated by the astutely designed products of Georges Salomon, a 60-year-old industrialist who started life as a school teacher and has amassed an estimated personal fortune of £80 million.

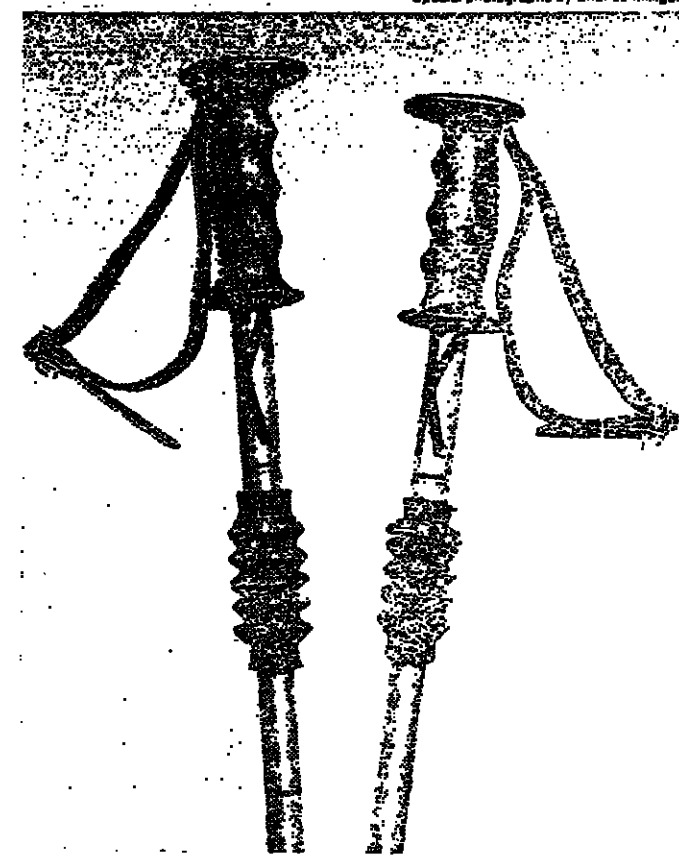
His success has been based on the convenience and popularity of "rear-entry" boots, which open at the back to let the foot in. This type of boot (scorned by most racers who claim that it is not tight enough around the lower leg) also offers a more comfortable fit.



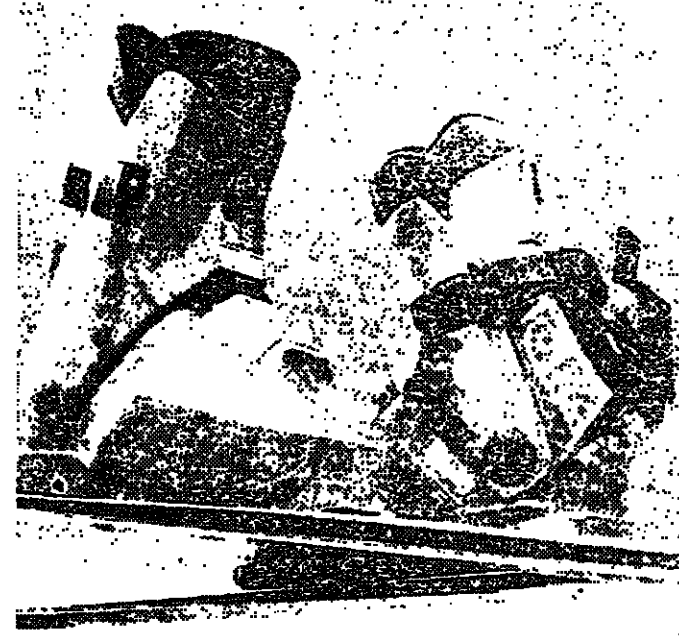
TIP TOP: Ski tips are sprouting new components. Rossignol Open skis (top left pair, £109 to £169) have flexible plastic tips screwed on to the main body of the skis - an excellent, safety feature in the event of collisions. The red, capsule "Contact System" on Dynastar Course

skis (centre pair, £189) is designed to soak up vibrations, while the "Airflow System" on five different Dynastar recreational models (right-hand pair, £140 to £198) is said to offer aerodynamic benefits. Don't let these features sway you against other good skis on

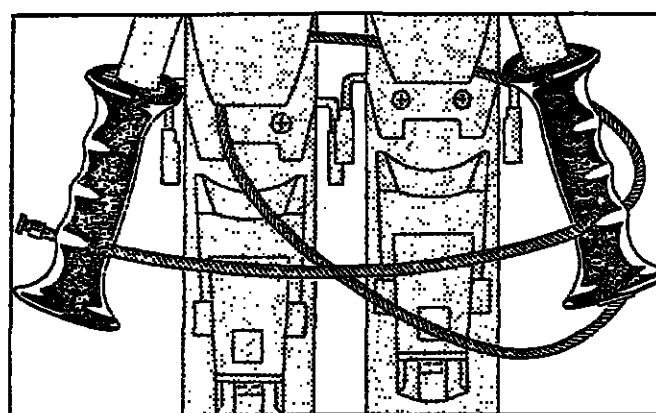
the market. Neither would have more than a marginal effect on performance, though they are both mounted on well made skis with good performance in varied snow conditions. All available from most ski shops including Lillywhites and Alpine Sports.



SHOCK STOPPER: Komperdell shock absorbing ski poles are for those who get a shudder up their arm every time they plant a pole. Inside the shaft of the pole there is a shock-absorbing spring. You need these if you suffer from very sore elbows or wrists. Like the ski poles which store whisky they are an amusing gimmick. Available from Snow & Rock.



HOT BOOTS: Exceptionally severe weather last December and January gave many skiers very cold feet. Some ski boots are quite well insulated anyway (Dynafit, for instance, have a good reputation) but electrically-heated boots are likely to be the answer for people with a regular circulation problem. They work by warming the inner boot with an electric element in the insole. The boot is switched on manually and cuts out automatically once the boot is heated, to conserve battery power. The Lange CHT (above, left, £129) from Alpine Sports has rechargeable batteries. The Caber CR Hot (right, £95) from Lillywhites takes standard 1½ volt batteries though it can be pre-heated from a car's cigarette lighter. As well as these two models, the Raichle RX Hot (£140) from Europa Ski Lodge is also worth examining as it incorporates the electrics particularly neatly.



LOCK UP: Ski theft is an increasing problem in many resorts. Spaces outside restaurants and shops are not safe places to leave skis. Also, don't assume that hotel ski rooms are necessarily safe places - they are regularly raided. The Scott Premier pole (£32.50) is an ingenious solution since it enables one to carry a cable lock at all times and use it in any situation. The cable feeds into the shaft of one pole. Once extended it can be wrapped around both skis, an immovable object, and locked into the handle of the other pole. This is an excellent deterrent, though it could affect the balance of the pole slightly when skiing. Available from Snow and Rock.

SUPERBOOT: Rear-entry ski boots often receive criticism from racers and expert skiers for not providing a tight enough fit around the lower leg. The Dackstein DF9 (right, £159) (right) from Alpine Sports may be the first such boot to receive full acceptance since it features no less than nine controls around almost every part of the foot, ankle and lower leg. It's a very sophisticated boot from a lesser-known Austrian manufacturer. The features are more than most skiers need but a skier wedded to the close fit of conventional "front-entry" boots might find it worth trying.

BUYING HINTS

BOOTS:

● Choose a quiet day. From now until Christmas ski shops will be mayhem on Saturdays and are best visited early in the week.

● Try on as many boots as you can by putting different models on your left and right feet.

● Buy from a shop which offers a "comfort guarantee" so that you can return them for a credit if painful.

● Try your new boots on an artificial slope before you go on holiday.

SKIS:

● Unless you have definite ideas about what you want to buy, choose a ski and binding "package". The savings can be up to 20 per cent.

● Keep the all-important bases of the skis in perfect condition by avoiding rocks and giving them a weekly repair, edge tune and hot wax.

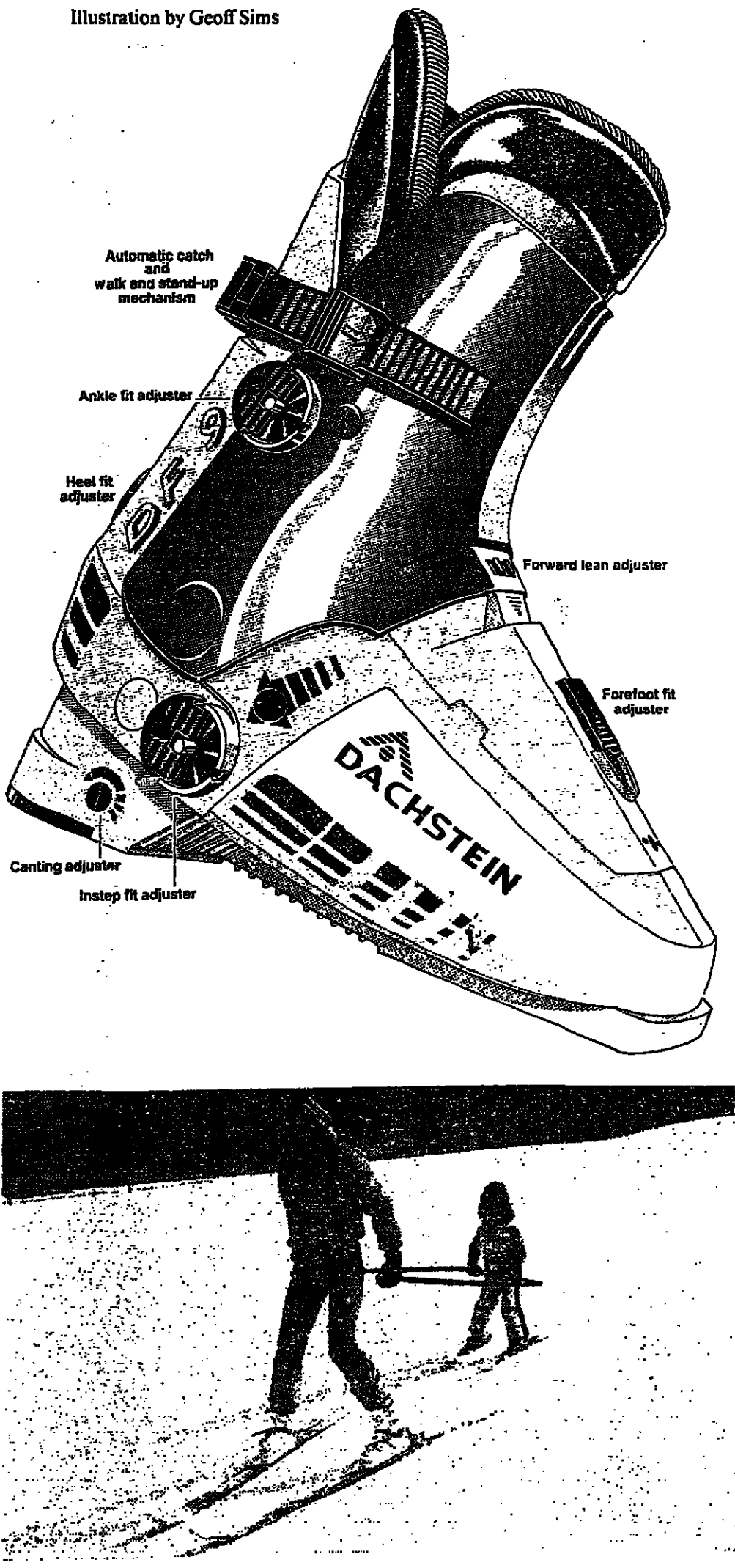
● Ignore people who tell you that expensive skis will improve your technique - spend the money on private lessons instead.

● Ignore people who insist that you buy longer skis that you want to use - it's your holiday. For those still longing for compact skis, Head still make the Hot Head in lengths from 160cm to 190cm (£145).

MUCH BINDING: Ski bindings perform the complex mechanical functions of holding boot to ski, releasing boot from ski when the skier's leg is in danger and absorbing shocks during normal skiing. The efficient operation of a binding depends on there being no friction between the boot and the binding. If the boot is dirty or caked with snow this can jam the movement of the binding's toeplate. The Marker M46 binding (£72 from most ski shops) uses additional pivots in the toeplate and a sliding anti-friction device to minimize friction. An excellent new development which offers much-improved safety and shock-absorbing performance.

TOW BARS: Timid children and nervous adults need to give confidence when learning to ski, especially if they cannot be taught on flat areas. The Ski Pilot (right, approx £27) from Blues of Edinburgh, provides support for a skier before he/she has reached "snowplough" level. The teacher holds the ski pole-type handles and the learner grips the horizontal bar, so the teacher can control the speed of both skiers on varied gradients.

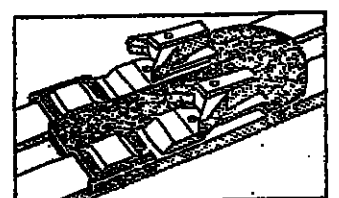
Illustration by Geoff Sims



MOTHER JACKSON'S ORIGINAL
COCONUT SKI WAX
RUB OR IRON ON
E.G. SKI SERVICE
Tel: 0632 811970

POLISH UP: Scented wax is the latest gimmick for the skier who has everything. Mother Jackson's Original Coconut Ski Wax (£1.02) from E. G. Ski Services is softer than normal waxes.

BLOW UP: Until now, avalanche rescue aids have been primarily designed to help locate those buried under the snow. Probes, cords and two-way radio beepers are all used. The Avalanche Balloon System is a self-help device from Germany not yet marketed in Great Britain. The balloon is carried flat on the back and, by pulling a rip-cord, it is inflated by a bottle of gas. Apart from helping the skier "float" near the surface it is designed to create a pocket of space to move into. New on the market and best used with a beeper.



TWO TO ONE: Skiing with skis close together is more likely to reduce balance and control than improve style. Mono-skiing is, however, growing in popularity since it offers faster, more exciting turns in deep snow and a surfing effect. The Dynastar Twinski (£39.90) from Europa Sport is designed to lock two conventional skis together to form a sort of mono-ski. This would be useful as a training aid though it would not fully simulate mono-skiing as there would still be a gap between the two skis?

WHERE TO GO

Blues 1, Wemyss Place, Edinburgh. Tel: 031 225 5369
Europa Sport, Ann Street, Kendal, Cumbria. Tel: 0539 24740
Europa Ski Lodge, The Ski Centre, More Lane, Esher, Surrey. Tel: 0372 67131
E.G. Ski Services, Atlantis House, Blenheim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne. Tel: 0832 611880
Snow & Rock, 188 Kensington High Street, London, W.8. Tel: 01-937 0872
Alpine Sports, 215 Kensington High Street, London, W.8. Tel: 01-938 1911
Pindisports, 14 Holborn, London, E.C.1. Tel: 01-242 2278
Ellis Brigham, 30/32 Southampton Street, London, W.C.2. Tel: 01-240 8577
Lillywhites, Piccadilly Circus, London, S.W.1. Tel: 01-930 3181

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COLLECTING



Vroom Vroom: Ford Thunderbird (£105) and Japanese and Italian cars (£2.50-£5.75), all 1950s from Gray's Antique Mar

Toys that are more than just child's play

Tin-plate trains and boats and planes can be worth a small fortune, writes Victoria Mather

Once upon a time - in 1978, in fact - there were two old ladies who took all their worldly goods to Sotheby's. And they went to the porcelain department, and jewellery, and silver, but the experts just fingered their modest possessions and sadly shook their heads. Until our dear little old ladies came to toys.

Then one shyly produced a rusty tin-plate car. This time the expert smiled and nodded and said it might make the sum of £300 and the dear little old lady was delighted. And her sister even more so, for she had the same model, but in mint condition and still in its original box.

The sisters had been given the 1898 Bing cars as presents in 1910 but one, being a tomboy, had played with her car up hill, down dale and through the sandpit, while the other preferred dolls and had set her car aside in the nursery cupboard. A fastidious gesture which 68 years later, would earn her £3,600 at auction.

The moral of the story is that collecting toys is no longer child's play. The tin-plate toys made for boys (and girls) before the First World War are now valued as transport history in miniature, as accurate reflections of the development of society and technology, even as fantastic sculptures with the naive qualities of folk art.

Fortunately these splendid trains and boats and planes are also rather fun. Clockwork appears quite early on, having been developed in Connecticut, home of America's clockmakers, at the end of the 19th century. Battery operation became widespread after the Second World War, encouraging such excesses as tin-plate Ford Thunderbirds which vroom-vrooms, before its door obligingly swings open for a well-fed American to swing his stubby legs out. At the top end of the market a tin-plate train has made the world record

BRIDGE

Trials with errors

In the old days England dominated the Home International series for the Camrose trophy. The team was usually composed of two strong London pairs, supplemented by a third pair who had qualified from the Camrose trials.

These trials were designed to give a chance of international honour to two different types of player: firstly, good solid performers who perhaps lacked the sparkle of the top masters; secondly, young players who had made their mark at university level.

The system worked well until some of the leading London players, possibly weary of scoring hollow victories against moderate players, became unavailable for selection.

England's weakness coincided with Scotland's increasing strength so perhaps the English selectors would have been unable to stem a series of Scottish victories in the Camrose trophy, whoever they had selected.

Determined that the Scots should twist the lion's tail no more, the English Bridge Union changed their policy. Serious trials with no exemptions are now held to produce a team that will often do duty in all the Home Internationals. Gone are the days of letting "dear old John" have a game. Today the Camrose trials provide some of the toughest competition in the calendar and the Camrose trophy is safely back in London.

In the second of two week-ends, eight teams battled for the right to qualify for one of the four places in the final Camrose trial.

Sheehan and Rose, who have not played in Camrose trials in recent memory, entered with their respective new partners, Myers and Smolksi. Although they scraped into the top four by the skin of their teeth, they will surely have to play better if they are to win. This was a brighter moment.

Love all. Dealer North.

Why was West cross? Because he had missed the chance to spoil South's plan by unblocking his diamonds, retaining a small one. This gambit would have given declarer an extra diamond trick, but at the expense of two spade tricks.

Jeremy Flint

Opening lead 47
Declarer allowed Sheehan to win the first trick with the ♠Q but won the diamond switch with dummy's ♠A. He played a heart to the ♠Q, returned to dummy with the ♠K and played a second heart, which Sheehan took with the ♠A. Sheehan could deduce that declarer had nine tricks at his disposal if he could enjoy them, so instead of woodenly playing another diamond, he switched to the ♠J.

This mortal blow to declarer's communications reduced his tricks from nine to eight. The next hand presented a chance for skillful play by both sides.

Love all. Dealer East.

Declarer covered the ♠10 with the ♠J and allowed East's ♠K to hold the trick. He won the club return in dummy and played a diamond, taking East's bare King with the ♠A.

Obviously assisted by the bidding, he now played the hand as if he could see through the backs of the cards. A heart went to East's ♠K and the club return was won in hand with the ♠A. The ♠K was followed by a finesse of the eight of spades. Then three rounds of diamonds left an infuriated West on play to concede the last two tricks to dummy's ♠A.

FISHING

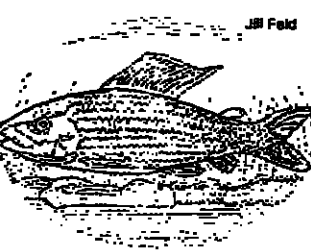
The return of the native

For most of the year you will hear nothing but ill of the grayling. River keepers complain about the encroachment of this delicate game fish on the food supplies reserved for their precious stocks of brown trout.

They will tell you to take as many of the "vermin" as you want, speaking with the same contempt held for the errant rainbows that often slip these days from fish farms into local streams.

Anglers aiming for the lurking brown trout at the bottom of a tree-lined pool are equally uncompromising when a grayling hooks itself on a leaded nymph trawling the gravel. In fact so bad is the public relations image of the grayling that few anglers bother with the specimen record.

There is muttered talk of a four-pounder that got away and other glimmers hidden in western streams, but many fishing books have a blank where the grayling entry should be. There is a current record listed by the National Anglers Council that gives the title of biggest fish to a 3lb 10oz specimen caught two years ago in Dorset; but fish of



Idiosyncratic: the grayling

5lb-8lb have been caught in Finland. There may be fish of a similar size in Britain, but their existence remains a keepers' secret.

Yet at this time of year, when the banks are thinning out and the frost appears in the morning, the grayling achieves a new regard.

Breeding between March and May, the grayling is still in season when the trout is not. River anglers who want to continue through the winter can try for grayling, providing keepers will allow them to fish without damaging trout stock.

Certainly there is no mistaking one for the other; the grayling is one of the most idiosyncratic of freshwater fish with a great sail of a first dorsal

fin, a small pouting mouth and silvery, leathery skin. Seen rising and swimming, the grayling is a picture of delicate somehow lacking that flick of brute force the trout will often show while feeding. Taking food on the surface, it seems to rise gently and float down again on that great dorsal fin, which is often a reddish colour.

The delicate mouth was developed for bottom feeding on shrimp or nymph although the grayling seems to have a wide appetite. In *The New Compleat Angler* the grayling is described as the subject of several extreme methods of "fly" fishing.

The book records the use of grasshoppers, which are sunk very deep to bring grayling from their bolt holes. In the Urals lures made of felt are used by fishermen in imitation of migrating shrews, which the grayling are believed to eat.

Dry fly can still be used in the dead of winter if the weather is mild. Flies of size 1 to 16 will do the trick. But many anglers turn to leaded nymphs to reach grayling which will often shoal in pools or take up lies in smooth flowing water. The nymph is allowed to sink deep and then brought up in a clean, single lift of the rod. This method of "sink and draw" might be varied with a gentle measured retrieve of the fly, bumping it along the river bottom.

Nymphs recommended by the grayling experts include the ubiquitous Pheasant Tail and Sawyer's Killer Bug. Both need plenty of weight to get them down into pools.

If you are looking for fishing try local river keepers and owners. They may be happy to let you fish for a nominal fee or nothing at all. You may find few recipes referring explicitly to grayling. Generally they are treated like trout. The meat is usually lighter, sometimes a pinky grey, and the fish will need a good soak in salt-water to get the muddy taste out.

Stewart Tendler

IN THE GARDEN



Conifer collection: Looking towards Marshall's Lake at Bedgebury National Pinetum, Kent

Accent on acres of evergreens

John Evelyn, the great 17th-century arboriculturist and author of *Silva*, the classic work on trees, would have loved Bedgebury National Pinetum in Kent. The site is of exquisite natural beauty with two stream-lined valleys converging on Marshall's Lake.

The National Pinetum, which covers approximately 100 acres, was started in 1924: it was a joint venture between the Forestry Commission and the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. Now that the Forestry Commission alone have responsibility for what has become the most comprehensive collection of conifers in Europe, with more than 200 species represented.

The variety of conifers here can be

overwhelming and their diverse forms astonishing to those who thought them uniform.

On higher ground to the east, away from the pinetum stand the forest plots. In plan the 50 or so acres of deciduous and conifer, resemble a modern city dissected by long straight avenues. On the ground the segregations are less precise, even blurred, and one encounters the true silence of the forest. Few people seem to penetrate this quiet and dense place, with its spectacle of oaks clinging to their leaves and resisting winter's advance in almost perfect solitude.

Michael Young

wetting and spray the underside of the leaves as well as the upper surface. It will probably need treatment for a second year and after that preventative sprays should be used. Do not use sulphur sprays on this type of pear tree.

I have read that newsprint can be added to compost heaps. Is it possible to make one entirely of paper?

It is possible to use paper on the compost heap, but I would not recommend the composting of paper on its own. Ideally paper should be shredded and applied to the compost heap in layers. Paper requires nitrogen to rot down and a compost entirely made of paper would take nitrogen from the ground and impoverish the soil.

I have removed some old roses and want to replant with new varieties. Can I plant new roses where old ones have been growing?

It would be unwise. The ground is likely to be impoverished and may carry some serious problems from the old roses. Should you wish to plant new roses in a different part of the garden, it is possible by double digging and importing good quality farmyard manure to make the soil suitable. However, if space is limited and you wish to replant into the same position, then you must replace the soil to a depth of 2ft. If you are planting a border, then the whole border should be done.

Ashley Stephenson

QUESTIONS

Does Hedera goldheart damage soft Norfolk bricks or destroy mortar? Could the same be said of the common ivy?

Ivy will not damage bricks or mortar, but it should only be grown where it can be controlled. It can damage buildings which are already in need of repair, for example where the pointing is breaking up. Similarly you must keep it away from drainpipes and roof eaves. So long as you keep the shoots under control and your house well maintained there should be no problem with ivy or any wall plant simply prune it back every year.

Stewart Tendler

THE INCREDIBLE SEED CATALOGUE

A well established Doyenne du Comice pear tree bears fruit which then becomes cracked and hard, not softening at all. Is this a soil deficiency or could it be soil? The tree is about 15ft high. It could be pear scab but is more likely to be bitter pit. If so then there is no cure; it is a virus disease and the tree should be removed and burnt. The symptoms may be confused with capsid bug, but usually the cracks are much deeper and there are dead areas in the pits. If it is scab then it can be controlled by spraying with Captan. This should be carried out at 14-day intervals from the time the buds show signs of bursting until early June. Make sure the tree gets a thorough

Woodham Mortimer Nurseries (Dept. 173) Loxington, Hants.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 814)

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 5 1985. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9ET. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 7 1985.

ACROSS

- Urban sprawl (11)
- Envy (7)
- Melodious sound (5)
- Watch chain (3)
- Typewriter levers (4)
- Pique (4)
- Neck up (6)
- Male lead (4)
- Sports association (6)
- Whip (4)
- Copple (4)
- Punt (3)
- Not fitted (5)
- Possess person (3,4)
- Aggressive (11)

DOWN

- Egg organ (5)
- Military subdivision (4)
- Bovine meat (4)
- Unclear (7)
- Ordinary soldiers (4,3,4)
- Building frame (11)
- Do favour (6)
- Female (3)
- Stick (6)
- Large status (7)
- Hack (3)
- Large sea (5)
- Phone inventor (4)
- Violent man (4)
- Utiliser (4)

SOLUTION TO No 813

ACROSS: 1 Braces 5 Admirer 8 Lag 9 Panama 10 Endure 11 Thoe 12 Natmandu 14 Column 17 Adjust 19 Amundsen 22 Come 24 Treble 25 Staple 26 Ant 27 Steak 28 Yesman

DOWN: 2 Reach 3 Chateau 4 Slacken 5 Agent 6 Media 7 Renclos 13 Mad 15 On ment 16 Mud 17 Amnesty 18 Jackass 20 Noble 21 Sneak 23 Mulla

The winners of prize Concise No 808 are: C. H. Robinson, Beaumont Avenue, Richmond, Surrey, and J. J. Rawcliffe, Broad Campden, Glos.

SOLUTION TO No 808 (last Saturday's prize crossword): ACROSS: 1 Vinticulture 9 Ripcord 10 Relax 11 Unm 13 Only 16 Stub 17 Elapse 18 Chin 20 Order 21 Chisel 22 Peck 23 Darn 25 Auk 28 Essen 29 Illegal 30 Orchestra

DOWN: 2 Impel 3 Iron 4 Urdu 5 Fern 6 Related 7 Preoccupied 8 Exuberantly 12 Resist 14 Yen 15 Cachou 19 Incisor 20 Old 24 Angst 25 Ankh 26 Kiss 27 Slur

Name _____ Address _____

Critics' choice 1985

Continued from previous page

which does not, however, preclude affection and an admirable moral sense. That may sound strange in the case of Cobb whose book offers a friendly portrait of a man who murdered his mother; it is nonetheless true. Both authors have a short way with cant, and Vansittart's book offers a rich store of the absurdities of the century; he has a sharp eye and ear for the ridiculous, and is a notable aphorist. Both books are on the side of Life and both are very funny.

Travel

French shades

Gontran Goulden

M.F.K. Fisher's *Two Towns in Provence* (Hogarth Press, £4.95) has given me my best read this year. I liked it for its prose and because she gives Provence so much sunshiney light and shade. This coupled with the food she likes, and I like, strongly recalls the France I once loved so much.

Poetry

Lyrical genius

Robert Nye

Iain Crichton Smith said of the early Scots lyrics by Hugh MacDiarmid that they have a

quality which utterly defeats the mind. MacDiarmid had genius when he wrote them, and they make his *Complete Poems* (Penguin, 2 vols, £8.95 per vol) the poetry book of the year for anyone with a hunger for something beyond the flavour of the month.

Shining light

Richard Holmes

Edward Thomas: *A Portrait* by R. George Thomas (Oxford £12.95). A marvellous, solid, old-fashioned biography packed with unpublished letters and diaries from both Thomas and his wife Helen. Its theme is the struggle between the writer's necessary but terrible solitude, and his longing for domesticity and love. From it - 30 prose books, 10 houses, death at Arras aged 39 - we see a major British poet emerge, quiet but shining.

Poetic pleasures

A. S. Byatt

Two books of poems have given me great and different pleasures this year. They are Douglas Dunn's moving *Elegies* (Faber £7.50, £4.00 paperback) for his dead wife, and Christopher Reid's *Katerina Brac* (Faber £7.95, £3.95 paperback) from an imaginary European woman poet. Among novels I was disturbed and grimly amused by Doris Lessing's *The Good Terrorist* (Cape £9.50).

One in the Eye from Waugh

Humour



"How things do change from day to day!" as Sophocles Ajax said in one of his brighter moments before disemboweling himself. Humorists may echo much the same sentiments, even though they do not generally pursue the logic with quite the rigour of a Sophoclean hero. The appointment of Jeffrey Archer, for example, has almost destroyed the political joke industry, so the collection in *No Laughing Matter* by Lukes and Galtsoor (RKP £7.95) is really just like that.

Can Lukes's fellow-dons at Balliol really flock to High Table to hear rib-ticklers about General Pinochet getting a Nobel Prize for mathematics because he cannot get a square head into a round cap?

Then again, Aids has almost literally knocked the bottom out of the gay market, so we should hesitate to shriek with feigned delight at *The Wit and Wisdom of Quentin Crisp* (Century, £7.95) and all that wearisome posing. Someone should drop a hamster down his vest. And what surrealist could match that radio flash about the people of Britain queuing overnight to see a film about Vietnam starring, of all people, Rimbaud?

The answer to the last question is probably "only Spike Milligan".

His fifth war-memoir, *Where have all the bullets gone?* (Michael Joseph, £9.95) has its predictable mixture of long-guerrilla and brilliance (fat Italian

tenor in Naples opens his mouth to "entertain" the troops when the sirens go. "My God," says Guardsman Rogers, "he's singing the air-raid warning").

Les Dawson's *A Clown Too Many* (Elm Tree, £7.95) also qualifies under this heading. In this tripe-fisted autobiography, Les relates how one of his teachers told him he had the talent to be a fine writer. Les's opening sentence was clearly crafted to live up to this glowing prognostication: "Grimy hunched warehouses severing the skyline with dissipated profiles that lurch above narrow tenements gazing eyesless on to litter-pitted streets". McGonagall in prose! If it's intentional, it's a masterpiece. But (Christmas game for structuralists) why shouldn't it be if it isn't? Do not write on both sides of the paper at once.

One topic is, by definition,

untouched by Ajax's problem - history. C. Below's *The Complete Evaporated History of the World* (Exley, £3.95) attempts to outdo 1066 and All That, but shows little invention apart from a series of interest-free puns (the name of the "author" sets the standard). *Falsies*, or forged diaries of the famous Adams, etc. (Robson, £5.95), mixes the obvious (Goliath: "Went out last night and got stoned") with good moments (Narcissus: "Dear Diary... It's all off between us").

The Punch Book of Cricket (Granada, £7.95) gives the funniest game in the world its most boring memorial ever. Still, there is one brilliant moment in the foreword when Coren and J. Arlott discuss how "Punch" is about fundamental values" (Arlott)... "Yes, I think it's got moral values built into it" (Coren). So that's why it's so hilarious.

But of joke collections stretching from here to the crack of doom, only Philip Norman's *Your Walrus Hurt the One You Love* (Elm Tree, £5.95) made me want to turn the next page. This book of malapropisms has some real beauties lurking in it ("Give us this day our day in bed", "Christ the Royal Master leans against the phone", etc.).

Three books stand head and humerus above the rest. For evidence that Molesworth already exerts a vice-like grip on the universal imagination, we need look no further than the

headmaster of one of our grandest public schools, who has a cat called Peason. The first paperback edition of *The Complete Molesworth* by Wilans and Searle (Michael Joseph, £4.95) must surely spread this wholesome influence yet further still.

We stay in school (girls' boarding) with *Giggling in the Shrubbery* (Collins, £8.95), a hilarious collection of reminiscences gathered from 53 unquestionably still-giggling adults and delightfully pinned together by - who else? - Arthur Marshall: wonderful sections on e.g. Health (jugs of cabbage-water for regularity), Clothes (elasticated knickers vital for keeping Gibbs SR toothpaste in to supplement the diet), Games and Crushes.

But the funniest book of the year must surely be *A Turbulent Decade* (Deutsch, £4.95), the latest selection from Auberon Waugh's *Private Eye* Diary columns.

It is true that if you either think politics, journalists or the arts important, or belong to a target group (workers, the handicapped, the dead, Shirley Williams) you will find the Diaries all in perfectly execrable taste, but since that is one of the conditions of writing decent satire, hard luck. The Ajax-opinion is always available. The rest of us will continue to fall about at the witty, stylish malice of a truly Waughian Knave.

Peter Jones



V J day in Times Square, New York, August 1945, a photograph by Alfred Eisenstaedt which somehow reflects the glint in his eye and his mischievous nature. At 87 Eisenstaedt is certainly the world's most travelled photographer having covered countless news and feature assignments around the globe for *Life* magazine. Today he lives quietly in New York only occasionally taking up his camera and venturing overseas as he did last year when I met him in London. *Eisenstaedt on Eisenstaedt* (BBC Publication, £10.95) is based on a television interview by Peter Adam. Each photograph is reproduced alongside anecdotes and candid asides by Eisenstaedt himself proving that every picture really does tell a story.

Michael Young

In Newby's net

Travel

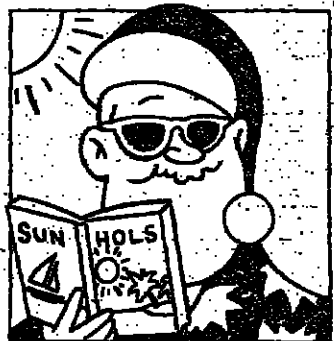
Here are two large, contrasting and absorbing collections of travellers' stories. Eric Newby's *Travellers' Tales* (Collins, £12.95) is not called an anthology but reads like one. It contains more than 200 contributions of short and medium pieces, not necessarily chosen for their literary content. They are arranged, with jolly illustrations and skeleton maps by geographical areas. Each is in its own historical order.

Authors have their own biographical notes and this provides a useful directory of Travellers. The printing and layout are in the best tradition of anthologies. There is a bibliography and a full index which makes reference easy.

Eric Newby provides a short introduction taking care to list the things he has not included, no sea-faring and no mountain-climbing for example. He has restricted the number and length of entries by each author, which enables him to spread a wide net. He appears to have no favourites except Queen Victoria who he quotes as being benighted in a dreary inn in the Scottish Highlands and who comments on the dinner and entertainment as "no pudding and no fun".

Some of Newby's contributors have less funny and more peculiar and even terrifying adventures. Odoric of Pordenone saw a man accompanied by a flock of 4,000 partridges on his way to Trebizond.

Alexander Henry witnessed an interesting game of Bagmati-way at Fort Michilimackinac when he was the only white man to escape scalping. More recently we have V. S. Naipaul on the hideous noise of Port of Spain, James Kirkup on the smells of Japan, and the foetid atmosphere inside a dwelling of the Chukchis in north-eastern Siberia experienced by Baron Nils Adolf Erik Nordenskjöld. The strangest encounter in the book is a meeting between Cecil



Beaton and the Rolling Stones in Marrakesh.

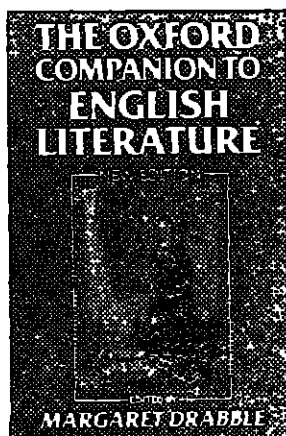
John Julius Norwich, after a long and erudite introduction arranges *A Taste For Travel* (Macmillan, £14.95) differently. His chapters cover the various aspects of travel served up in small print (twice as many words to the page as Newby) mostly well chosen and written and adequately sad, monstrous, and funny in turn, but very much in need of cutting.

There are no headings. References to authors are perfunctory and there are few dates. The lengthy contributions of many of our most talented travel writers are strung together by Norwich's rather complacent linkmanship.

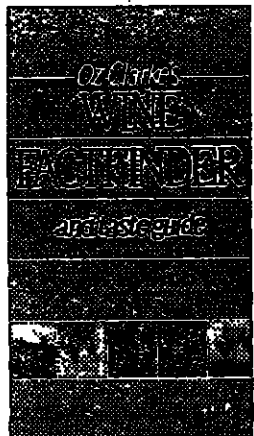
Norwich includes much interesting and amusing writing, but his authors seem privileged to him alone. He includes verse from Chaucer to Noel Coward by way of Flecker, Kipling and Belloc, and some salmonists like Joshua Slocum. His favourites are Lady Mary Wortley Montague (who surprisingly discusses her stays with the regulars in a Turkish bath), Waugh, Leigh Fermor, Peter Fleming, Freya Stark, C. M. Doughty and E. M. Forster. A repetitious bibliography is provided but there is no index. This is a great bore.

Gontran Goulden

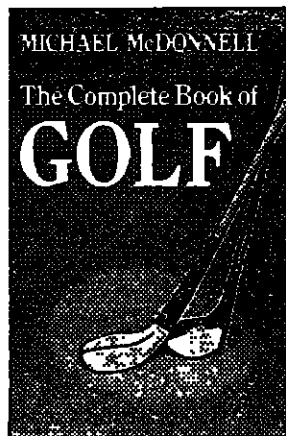
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Wine Factfinder and Taste Guide / Oz Clarke / Mitchell Beazley / £9.95.



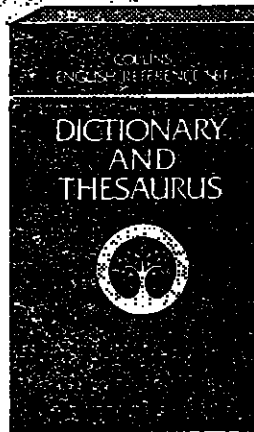
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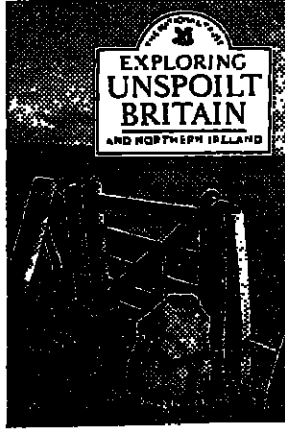
'The Times' Atlas of the World / Times Books / £50.00.



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Books for Christmas/3

Sweating through a nightmare

Top 10 novels

In literary judgments one man's Keats is another woman's Housman. That is why literary prizes are controversial, good fun and silly. All they mean is that on the day, for reasons or non-reasons best known to themselves, the judges decided to give a prize to this book and not to the others.

Having helped to judge the Whitbread prize for fiction, I am well-placed to give you my top ten novels in what seemed to me a vintage year for fiction. You do not have to agree. It would be rum if you did.

We thought that the most brilliant novel of the year was *Hawkenbury* by Peter Ackroyd (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95). This story of stragglings with their roots in evil long in the past was also a runner for the nastiest novel of the year. It gave me sweating and shivering nightmares for the first time since I was sent away to boarding school as a small boy.

Ackroyd gives a virtuoso display of his talent for catching not just the tone of voice but also the cast of mind of long dead men, and linking it to our modern world imaginatively.

Maggot, by John Fowles (Cape, £9.95) is the most mysterious novel of the year, also set partly in the 18th century, and also exploring the enigmatic boundaries between good and evil, reality and illusion.

The most beguiling novel of the year is *Unexplained Laughter*, by Alice Thomas Ellis (Duckworth, £8.95), about a trendy London hackette who takes refuge in wild Wales from a broken love affair, and learns

that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in her Fleet Street.

If the question is: "Which novel did you most enjoy?", my answer is *Crusoe's Daughter*, by Jane Gardam (Hamish Hamilton, £8.95), about the long life of a girl shipwrecked metaphorically like her hero Robinson Crusoe, and learning to cope with loneliness and cleverness.

The funniest novel of the year is *Ilywhacker*, by Peter Carey (Faber, £9.95), the incredible and picaresque adventures of an Australian con-man, which go back into history like many of this year's books, since Herbert Badger, the cock-and-bull Ilywhacker, claims to be 139 years old.

The most contemporary novel is *The Good Terrorist*, by Doris Lessing (Cape, £9.50) about the decent, silly, middle-aged, middle-class house mother to a gang of hopelessly inept drop-outs and would-be revolutionaries.

Whenever Iris Murdoch publishes anything, I want to give her a prize. *The Good Apprentice* (Chatto & Windus, £9.95) about a boy haunted by guilt, his quest for his father, and a lot else, is her usual mixture of wit and cleverness, myth-making, sudden turns in a short sentence to give you goose pimples, and a soppy subsidiary love story straight out of *Woman's Own*, but in High Table lexis.

The most delicate title novel of the year is *Anita Brookner's Family and Friends* (Cape, £8.95), better even than *Hotel du Lac* which won the Booker Prize last year. It is about the children of a formidable matriarch, and how the good end unhappily, and the bad pretty unhappily too. That is what Modern Fiction means.



A picture of Dr Robert Ceriani, an American folk hero, from Eugene Smith's 'Country Doctor' series in *Let Truth be the Prejudice* (Aperture, £50). It is a book which is undoubtedly the photographic publication of the year. Mr Smith

sacrificed friends, family and health in pursuit of his documentary reportage photography, which even though often tainted by the close proximity of death, celebrates the raw excitement of life.

MY

The most literary novel of the year is *Still Life*, by A.S. Byatt (Chatto & Windus, £9.95), daughter of *The Virgin in the Garden*, about Cambridge and Yorkshire, two sisters, the conflict between domesticity and careers, art and life. All done with high intelligence.

The most outrageous novel of

the year is *Harnessed Peacocks*, by Mary Wesley (Macmillan, £8.95) about Hebe, who runs away from her upper-middle-class home to have her son, and supports herself and him by her two great talents: cooking and making love.

Philip Howard

Open door to the grand house

The Christmas crop of architectural books is inevitably affected by the spray, so to speak, from the aeroplanes carrying the exhibits to the great Treasure Houses of Britain show running in Washington until next March. In transporting a copy of the 680 page catalogue (*The Treasure Houses of Britain*, edited by Gervase Jackson-Stops, Yale, £50 hardback, £19.95 paperback), I was running the risk of excess baggage charges.

Although a handsomely produced work (designed by Derek Birdsall), one wonders if such a vast volume was really necessary other than to satisfy the director of the National Gallery of Art's apparent penchant for bulky catalogues. Carrying it round the show, I must have come close to breaking my wrists.

The show itself is not nearly so overwhelming as the catalogue: a remarkably intimate and anti-museum atmosphere has been achieved. Of course the colour illustrations constitute a marvellous record but the text seems padded out. I also wish that someone with a greater grasp of genealogy had corrected the proofs.

In *The Times* preview of the show, Gervase Jackson-Stops was referred to as the next Lord Clark of Civilization. His lavish coffee-table book complementing the catalogue, *The English Country House* (Weidenfeld £15), with photographs by James Pipkin, is certainly in the what-could-be-more-agreeable tradition.

This lucid room-by-room account of the development of the country house in terms of architecture and decoration up to the 1830s (Victorian buffets please note) seems intended to whet the appetite of the uninitiated enthusiast. The Grand Tour will not be to the

taste of those weary of old chestnuts.

The most memorable item in the Treasure Houses show is the state bed from Calke Abbey shown in all its pristine (and amazingly garish) early 18th-century glory for the first time. The absent-minded Harpur-Crewe family had never got round to unpacking it.

The hitherto hidden house is engagingly revealed by Howard Colvin in *Calke Abbey, Derbyshire* (The National Trust, George Philip £12.95). I did not care for the fussy design, but in all other respects this is a lovely book sympathetically written by

(28). The title is curious as hardly any of the mixed bag of architects featured - Pratt, Leoni, the Hims, Keene, Essex, Hopper, Tesson, Rhind and Newton - were really "outsiders" at all, but none the less it makes a pleasant enough book.

One of Mr Brown's contributors, Tim Mowl, is also responsible for the text of another new Waterstone production, *Trumpet at a Distant Gate* (£25). This study of park gate lodges breaks welcome new ground. Indeed it has opened my eyes to a neglected area of architecture. I found myself looking at illustrations of lodges to houses I know well as if for the first time.

Dan Cruickshank's *Guide to the Georgian Buildings of Britain and Ireland* (Weidenfeld £12.95) is an admirably crisp survey of architecture from 1714 to 1830. My only gripe is with the typography of the gazetteer, but Mr Cruickshank must be congratulated on producing an excellent work of reference.

Seeing the description as "especially good" made me feel very nostalgic - Notting Hill will never be the same again.

Mr Cruickshank's cheerful countenance, plus wife and bicycle, are displayed on the cover of the deceptively jolly *New Georgian Handbook* by Alexandra Arley and John Martin Robinson (Ebury Press, £8.95). The perfect stocking-filler for Tom and Georgiana Pop-Baroque, Bachelor Folly, the Sloanees, the Liqueurice Consors, Henry and Caroline Repro-McCoy and the Kentucy-Fried Georgians, this is another production from the Sloane Ranger stable: Miss Arley (otherwise Mrs Gavin Stamp) has taken over from Ann Barr as Features Editor of *Harpers & Queen*. But do not be

put off by the desperate puns, there is sound counsel here on conservation matters and plenty of useful practical information. A rap on the knuckles, though, for spelling Lady Colefax's Christian name "Sybil".

Sybil "Coalbox" was the decorating partner of John Fowler (exeter Jones) whose genius is celebrated at considerable length in *The Inspiration of the Past* (Viking, £20), an elegant exposition of country house taste in the 20th century by John Cornforth of *Country Life*.

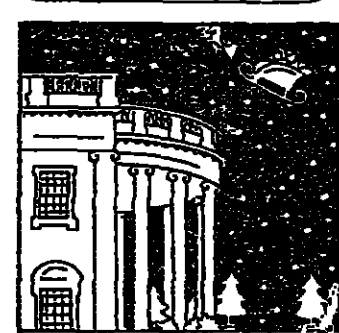
The controversial "Fowlerization" of various National Trust houses is rather glossed over by Mr Cornforth ("Twelve years on", he writes of the Sudbury Agony, "the rows are largely forgotten...").

Mr Cornforth is gracefully acknowledged as a major source by Christopher Simon Sykes at the front of his vivid account of life in the great London houses, *Private Palaces* (Chatto, £15.95). Here is another cracking idea from Mr Sykes executed with wit and verve. The destruction of the town houses between the wars makes a depressing ending: I was interested to see the name of Palumbo senior among those responsible for pulling down Norfolk House in St James's Square in 1937.

A few years later the Garden Room of Lamb House in Ryde (where Henry James lived and wrote) was destroyed by a bomb - would that it could be restored by the National Trust. Lamb House is one of the places featured in *Writers at Home* (Treford, £12.95). Illuminatingly introduced by James Lees-Milne, this is the latest volume of National Trust Studies edited by the man of the moment Gervase Jackson-Stops.

Hugh Montgomery-Massingbird

Stately homes



the supreme authority: The reclusive ornithologist Sir Vauncey Harpur-Crewe, 10th and last Bart, joins the gallery of great British eccentrics. He banished his daughter from Calke for smoking and, following an altercation with his cousin, he proceeded to have the latter's house pulled down.

Some of the lesser known entrants in Mr Colvin's indispensable *Dictionary of British Architects* receive a well-illustrated airing in *The Architectural Outsiders*, edited by Roderick Brown (Waterstone,

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Few surprises left for the serious tippler

Perhaps wine drinkers should succumb after all and start talking about the fall and not the autumn. It is not just a matter of the leaves on the vines: they will be there when many another deciduous tree has shed its foliage. No it is the drop, drop, drop of merchants' lists through the letterbox and the parallel drop, drop, drop of wine books from the publishers. Nine months of the year may go by without a major publication to titillate, let alone educate the palate. And then in October and November they all arrive.

And so to the '85 vintage. It turns out to be hard-nosed, price-conscious, diligent and assiduous in the compilation of facts of every variety. Almost gone are memories of magnificent bottles and assemblies of vinous anecdotes (survivor: *How I liberated Burgundy* by "Vineyard" Vaughan Thomas, Methuen £7.95). On the way out are the jolly cartoons and lists of winespeak and parryspeak (survivor: *The Drink-Spotty Book* by Pelham Witherspoon, Bantam £4.95). In their place is the dictionary or encyclopaedia.

I have an uneasy feeling that after this Christmas there will be few surprises left. No corner of the world where a bunch of grapes hangs from a branch remains uncharted. No country wine merchant with his parcel of old claret from a little known but undervalued chateau remains unlisted. Can too much knowledge be a dangerous thing?

The new breed of encyclopaedists, the Diderots of drink, are often much influenced by Hugh Johnson's *World Atlas of Wine*, which helped the house of Mitchell Beazley along its successful path back in 1971.

Wine & drink



wine" but in 1985 it has become an "inferior substitute" for the sparkling wine of Arbois.

Johnson remains ahead of the field in accuracy and, especially, presentation. Oz Clarke's *Wine Factfinder* (also Mitchell Beazley, £9.95) fairly bristles with maps once past an aggressively jovial introduction, so in a more modest way does Anthony Hogg's *Everybody's Wine Guide* (Quiller Press £3.95). Clarke passes judgment, notably in a chart marking wines out of ten for price, quality and value - yes, that last line is necessary.

Hogg is more modest and retreats behind statistics.

Don Hewitson, proprietor for a long time now of one of the best wine bars in London, The Cork and Bottle (careful of the stairs!), is an Antipodean and unashamed of it. In *Enjoying Wine* (Elm Tree Books, £9.95) Australia rates more pages than any European country apart from France while New Zealand takes five times the space of South Africa. The Australian survey is one of the most accurate and comprehensive I have come across for that country, but Mr Hewitson writes with good sense on practically all matters vinous.

There are virtually no prices in *Enjoying Wine*: presumably they would destroy the first word of the title. For them you must turn to Webster. "Like Webster's Dictionary, We're Morocco-bound". Bing, Bob and Dottie Lamour used to sing in the Road films. Well, Morocco is just about the only country not listed in Webster's *Wine Price Guide* Ed. Oz Clarke, (Mitchell Beazley, £9.95) where practically every bottle does have that promised price. Nor do £s and p's stop at bottles: a mighty table points out that a glass of Don Zolo Fino, then which there is little better, goes for 90p at The Bell, Aston Clinton, while an unnamed sherry at the London Hilton will come to exactly twice that amount. With such knowledge who needs to look at the wine list?

The blurb writer for one of the wine books (not mentioned here) announces with pride that its author "suffers from gout". And who can wonder?

John Higgins

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OUTINGS

**From labour clubs to country mansions,
Kate Wharton homes in on pigeon racers**

Next day, however, proves how dramatically that picture has changed as money and the middle classes have taken up the sport. Royalty has always had an interest: the Queen owns 3,000 racing pigeon clubs in the United Kingdom with nearly a quarter of a million members. During the season as many as a million birds can be in the sky at one time. He endorsed the view that pigeon racing is going

According to Major Edward Camilleri, general manager of the Royal Racing Pigeon Association, there are more than 3,000 racing pigeon clubs in the United Kingdom with nearly a quarter of a million members. During the season as many as a million birds can be in the sky at one time. He endorsed the view that pigeon racing is going

The birds are trained to race "home" by either of two methods. The natural method races both cock and hen birds. Starting from small distances and gradually increasing them, the birds are trained to fly back either to eggs, chicks or the home loft.

While racing speeds from 30 to 70mph are the norm, some spectacular achievements have been recorded. In South Africa, one bird flew 500 miles at 88mph. There is a 30-year-old record in this country that has yet to be overtaken: A. R. Hill had a bird fly 686 miles in one

the famous Pau Grand National – 550 miles over the Pyrenees – says: “Scientists say the birds have the ability to gain a compass bearing from the position of the sun, or that perhaps they have some sensitivity to the earth’s magnetic field, but I think it has more to do with their courage, tenacity and daring”.

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A map of the Stour valley area. The River Stour flows from the top left towards the bottom right. Along the river, several locations are marked: Higham (top left), Frindsbury (middle left), Strood (bottom left), Rochester (bottom right), and Lower Upnor (top right). The M2 motorway is shown as a thick line running vertically on the left side of the map.

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Rock & jazz records

Cool, stylistic and certain of success

Sade Promise (Epic EPC 86318)
Arcadia So Red the Rose
(Parlophone PCS 101)
Al Green Going Away (A & M
Records AMA 5102)

Sade's Promise does not show much of a departure from her first and extraordinarily successful album *Diamond Life* which has so far sold in excess of five million copies. It established the singer as the undisputed queen of classy, all-purpose modern urban blues.

For someone so obviously photogenic, Sade's phenomenal rise to quiet fame is at odds with the current climate in which pop artists are encouraged to flaunt their star status and carry with them all manner of absurd pretensions.

Sade's music is not designed to make any great gestures, rather it strikes a solemn note and resonates with an unflinching elegance. It makes for ideal background listening, being a strangely anonymous sound but one in which the charm and craft is still apparent. Now that spurious analogies to a new jazz movement have been substituted, it becomes easier to separate the girls from the women and Sade's strengths place her in the latter camp.

Wistful phrasing set to a cool seamless arrangement is Sade's forte. She specializes in songs of regret and her emotional range is limited without being unduly cloying. The record has a steady pulse and provides the same kind of unforced rhythm and melody which the Blue Thumb

West Coast jazzers of the early 1970s used as their calling card. Those numbers which seem to have been written from personal experience, like "Tar Baby" and "Maureen", are evocative without being clichéd and she only really comes unstuck on "Fear" where the Spanish verses are laboured.

Promise sticks to a formula, one which seems to irritate purists and pandits alike, but its stylistic certainty gives Sade the last laugh: the album is already at the top of the charts without a big single, and is guaranteed to provide the soundtrack for Christmas shoppers. They will be grateful for her ability to soothe the savage breast and pour some musical balm on the bad temper of the season.

So Red the Rose by Arcadia is almost the complete opposite of the album from that other Duran Duran offshoot, the Power Station, on which John and Andy Taylor attempted to forge a link between funk and heavy metal. Messrs Simon Le Bon, Nick Rhodes and Roger Taylor of Arcadia have indulged their preoccupations with studio atmospherics, in particular the with ambient rock and world-weary glamour of late Roxy Music.

The record has a certain veneer of pretentiousness and the contributory list of heavyweight session players, like David Gilmour, Carlos Alomar and Mark Egan ensure that Le Bon's lyrical excesses are at least partially hidden beneath a textural sophistication. The trouble is that Arcadia's music is quite clever but it is not



Unruffled elegance: Sade, specializing in songs of regret

particularly exciting or challenging. Le Bon does a creditable impersonation of Bryan Ferry while the tunes recall every middle-of-the-road supergroup from Dire Straits to the Pink Floyd.

The effect is lethargic, polite and conclusive evidence that the creative energies of the second generation of British pop idols has run its course. The album could have been

made 10 years ago. Surely it is time for a change?

Al Green's latest record, *Going Away*, finds this southern soul singer, whose voice is one of the most beautiful and expressive instruments in the genre, reunited with the Memphis producer Willie Mitchell.

The rhythmic power and the brassy sensuality of Green's Hi label period is recalled on "I Feel Like Going On" and

"Building Up", songs that indicate the artist retains his ability to fuse sexuality with the word. His timing and interpretative skills are at their peak throughout, and Mitchell's muscular backing offsets the fragile quality of the voice and brings out Green's genius for implied tension. *Going Away* is a dynamic, truly moving soul experience.

Max Bell

Discovering the master who ran out of time

Tina Brooks The Complete Blue Note Recordings of the Tina Brooks Quintet (Mosaic MRA-106, 4 discs).
Loose Tubes (Loose Tubes LTLT 001).
Benny Carter A Gentleman and His Music (Concord Jazz CJ-285).

Tina Brooks, who played the tenor saxophone and was christened Harold, made his first recording on an obscure rhythm 'n' blues session in 1951. More auspiciously, in 1958 he began an association with the great Blue Note label in New York, recording as a sideman with Jimmy Smith, Kenny Burrell, Freddie Hubbard and Jackie McLean. Blue Note recorded four album-length sessions under Brooks' own name, only one of which was issued during his lifetime.

In 1961 he said his last farewell to the recording studio: in 1974, aged a mere 42, he died of a kidney failure brought on by the sort of lethal habits to which jazz musicians of his generation so often fell prey.

A year after his death, the authors of *The Essential Modern Jazz Records* wisely saw fit to include Brooks' one published work in their list of 200 albums. Otherwise, in conventional jazz history, his was a small life of no lasting significance.

Fortunately, Michael Cuscuna and Charles Lounie, who run the remarkable Mosaic concern, felt that Brooks was worthy of a more substantial memorial. Using the diligence and imagination Mosaic has already brought to bear on the collected works of Clifford Brown, Thelonious Monk, Art Pepper and others, they have acquired and assembled all four dates led by Brooks, packaging them in a box with a fine booklet containing biographies, musicological essays, photographs and recording data.

What was Brooks' true stature? Between 1958 and 1961, which is when these 22 titles were taped, he revealed himself as an uncommonly intelligent student of Lester Young, capable of an original application of the new freedoms and techniques discovered by John Coltrane. Of his contemporaries, he sounds superficially most like Hank Mobley and Oliver Nelson, the similarity to be found in a light, rather pure tone and a legato rhythmic sense, but on second thoughts his playing is more truly reminiscent of Wayne Shorter, in the way a calm delivery articulates complicated and sometimes profound ideas.

Blue Note's producer, Alfred Lion, supplied Brooks with an accompanying hard-bop squad of the highest quality. Throughout the first session, indeed, the overawed young leader is



Tina Brooks: deserved much wider recognition

outshone by his pianist, Sonny Clark, and by the rampaging trumpet of Lee Morgan, who concentrates his fine technique and brave imagination on a series of marvellous solos. On the later dates Brooks achieves better than parity with Freddie Hubbard and "Blue" Mitchell, and Johnny Cole's rare appearance on the final session is as sparkling as admirers of this sensitive trumpeter would hope.

The various rhythm sections swing with graceful fire, the underrated Kenny Drew, in particular, producing an unflagging flow of ideas articulated with delightfully clear touches.

A couple of hours in the company of this set will also leave the listener in no doubt of Brooks' quality as a composer. His tunes combine the lean rhythmic thrust of Horace Silver and the lyricism of Benny Golson with a strong feeling for the blues and a particular gift for making creative use of the plain trumpet-and-tenor front line.

Brooks was, by the few available accounts, a diffident man, which perhaps had something to do with his problems. He deserved wider celebration during his lifetime, but Messrs Lion, Cuscuna and Lounie are to be thanked for the combined vision that allows us to catch up with an unacknowledged master.

Those who wish to investigate further might like to know that Brooks can also be heard on two new items in EMI's series of digitally remastered Blue Note reissues, Jimmy Smith's genial *House Party*

(BST-34002) and Jackie McLean's intense, brilliant *Jackie's Bag* (BST-34051).

Loose Tubes, a marvellous 21-piece orchestra which includes many of the most promising members of the latest generation of British jazz musicians, began a second season at Ronnie Scott's Club on Monday, coinciding with the release of their first album. Since today's major record companies put 21-piece jazz bands somewhere below Moldavian wedding music on their list of priorities, Loose Tubes has been subsidized by the band itself, the consequent small budget restricting studio time to a minimum.

Accepting, then, a few rough edges, they have done a creditable job of capturing their joyful, free-wheeling music, which veers from the crisp funk of Django Bates' "Eden Express" through the glistering intimacy of Steve Barry's "Descarga Occurriencia" to the rolling blues of Chris Batchelor's "Arriving". Inevitably, the prodigious Bates takes the ear with dramatic solos on synthesizers and melodica, but the saxophones of Mark Lockheart, Iain Ballamy and Tim Whitehead, and the guitar of John Parricelli are also to the fore of a record whose zest and openness of spirit bodes well for the future of these young musicians.

No rough edges mar the urbane perfection of *A Gentleman and His Music*, a succulent septet session in which Benny Carter, the distinguished alto saxophonist, composer and arranger, now aged 78, shows that his unflagging creative vitality is among the wonders of American music.

Juicy settings of a variety of ballads and blues cushion the ebullient piano of Gene Harris, the unfurnished guitar of Ed Bickert and, most of all, the rich-toned trumpet and flugelhorn of Joe Wilder, an overlooked veteran whose might just be at hand. "Blues For George", a gently rocking tribute to the late double bassist George Duvivier, best displays both the group's complete relaxation and the beautifully spacious quality of an exemplary recording.

Richard Williams

● Mosaic MRA-106 is available at £80 from specialist jazz shops in London, but can be ordered direct from Mosaic Records at 197 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut 06902, United States of America, price \$40 via surface mail or \$60 airmail. Loose Tubes' record is available from Loose Tubes Ltd at 43 Durham Road, London N2 9DR, price £25 also including postage and packing.

Haunting laments of a remarkable Mr Ordinary

Percy Mayfield My Heart is Always Singing Sad Songs (Ace CHD 153)
Various Artists Girls About Town (Impact ACT 008)
Various Artists Dream Babies (Capitol EG 26 0573 1)

Percy Mayfield wrote "Hit the Road, Jack" for Ray Charles, but the composer's truer nature was revealed on the B-side of that memorable 1961 hit, "Sad and Lonely all the time/That's because I've got a worried mind/You know the world is an uproar/The danger zone is everywhere". Charles reduced his usual wall to a soulful croon for this wistful 32-bar blues ballad, blending his voice with a glowing carpet of horns in a song that took its cue from the Cuban missile crisis, but it expressed contemporary fears in

a gentle, naturalistic tone that makes an interesting contrast with the way Bob Dylan handled the subject in "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall".

"Danger Zone" strikes no poses. It is the authentic voice of an ordinary Joe, perplexed by the pressures and changing patterns of a hostile world. That was Percy Mayfield's voice, and it had already brought him commercial success with two other compositions, "Please Send Someone To Love" and "River's Invitation", when he recorded them on the Specialty label in Los Angeles in the 1950s.

Born in Louisiana in 1920 and raised in Texas, Mayfield moved to California in his early twenties, eventually finding his way into the music business. A

dozen tracks representing his most successful work were reissued in Britain 12 years ago on *The Incredible Percy Mayfield* (Specialty SNTF 5010), and the 16 in *My Heart is Always Singing Sad Songs* collect up some lesser known and other previously unreleased songs from the same sessions. Both albums show him to have been a singer and composer of unusually subtle skills.

The songs in the new anthology have titles like "Lonesome Highway" and "Wasted Dream". This is the world of good love gone bad, of lost weekends and lost opportunities.

The laments are supported by one of the compact, laconic small-band arrangements by the tenor saxophonist and musical

director Maxwell Davis that makes this album a particularly satisfying example of its genre and a fine tribute to Mayfield, who died last year.

Ace's repackaging of these treasures displays all the flair shown in such ventures by small British companies. *Girls About Town* is also typical in that it is clearly the work of a real fan - in this case of the wonderful girl-group music of the early and middle 1960s.

For every hit by the Chiffons or the Shirelles there were dozens of misses that make equally good listening in the middle 1960s, and the producer's fellow fans will lap up these offerings from such unrewarded hopefuls as the Delicates, the Francettes and the Demurees. And Earnestine

Eady and Nella Dodds show that singers of genuine quality could decently co-exist with breathless schoolgirls in this lovely, frivolous idiom.

Perhaps the major labels are catching on, too, because Dream Babies is a similar compilation drawn by EMI from their American catalogue, starring the Exciters, the Angels, Merry Clayton, the Pandoras, the Satisfactions, the Honeyes and even the Crystals. "Dream Baby", written by Sonny Bono and sung by Cher (under the name Cherilyn) in a morbid sub-Ronettes style, ties for first place here with the Girls' "Chico's Girl", a successful impersonation of the greatly loved Shangri-Las.

R.W.

THE WEEK AHEAD

ROCK & JAZZ

BULL'S HEAD: The home of British bebop celebrates its 25th birthday with a month-long festival. Today and tomorrow there are sessions lasting from noon to 11 pm. Today's bill features the bands of Tommy Chase, Elaine Delmar, Ronnie Scott and Terry Jenkins; tomorrow's includes Blue Note Revisited, the Don Weller/Iain Galloway Quintet, the Stan Tracey Quartet and the Ron Matthews Sextet. The rest of the week features Morrissey-Mullen (Mon), Jazz Seven (Tues), George Fame with Peter King (Wed), Back Door (Thurs) and Big Chief (Fri).

BULL'S HEAD: 378 Lombard Road, London SW13 (01-876 5241).

STRAWBS: Folk-rock heroes of the early 1970s reunite. Dave Cousins, Tony Hooper, John Ford and Richard Hudson guarantee to include "Part of the Union" and "Lay Down".

Tonight: Sir George Robey, 240 Swan Lane, London NW4 (01-258 4581).

HOWARD RILEY: The adventurous British improvising pianist performs with two groups - the first including Jeff Clyne (bass) and Tony Levin (drums), the second featuring Evan Parker (saxophones), Barry Guy (bass) and John Stevens (drums).

Tonight: Exeter Arts Centre (0392 218139); tomorrow, Hawthorns Hotel, Bristol (0272 738432).

PAUL YOUNG: His concerts should by now be displaying the sort of finesse that he and his producer so brilliantly achieved on his records. Tomorrow to Fri, Wembley Arena, (01-902 1234).

BLUE OYSTER CULT: Relatively intelligent American hard rockers who created the guitar riff from their "Don't Fear the Reaper" to the Police's "Message in a Bottle". Tomorrow, Hammersmith Odeon, Queens Caroline Street, London W6 (01-748 4081); Tues, Ipswich Gaumont (0473 53641); Thurs, St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371236).

SADE: This is one column that will not be joining the backlist. Tomorrow and Mon, Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-588 8212).

UNTOUCHABLES/MAKIN' TIME: Mod revival from Los Angeles and London, respectively. Tomorrow, Camden Palace, 1a Bridge Road, London NW1 (01-387 0629).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed.
Concerts: Max Harrison; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch



STYLE COUNCIL: When Paul Weller (above) lets his love of soul music precede his socialist preoccupations, the Style Council are capable of memorable songs and stylish performances. Tomorrow, De Montfort Hall, Leicester (0533 544444); Wed, Leicester Leisure Centre (0452 35788); Thurs, St George's Hall, Blackburn (0254 582582); Fri, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590).

BUDDY GUY/JUNIOR SHOW: Chicago blues by Guy, a wistful guitarist, and Wells, playing harmonica with a searing drive. Mon and Tues, Dingwalls, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (01-287 4967).

JAZZ UMBRELLA: Two trumpeters, Dave Defries and Harold Beckett (Tues), followed by Eric of Keith Tippett, Art Stubbins and Louis Moholo (Wed), Billy Jenkins's Intriguing Voice of God Collective and Joe Gallivan's Soldiers of the Road (Thurs) and the John Warren Big Band (Fri). From Tues, Wivernia Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (01-748 3354).

PIZZA EXPRESS ALL-STARS: Superior mainstream septet. Wed, Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 688282); Thurs, Saracen's Head, Southwell (0836 812701); Fri, Bridgewater Arts Centre (0278 422700).

KOE NIG/PHILHARMONIA: Jan Latnam-Koenig conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnole*, Rachmaninov's *Paganini*, Rhapsody (soloist, Stephen Hough), Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8851). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ALL STRAVINSKY: Simon Rattle takes the LPO and London Philharmonic Choir up and down several Stravinsky peaks: the *Symphony in Three Movements*, *Symphony of Psalms*, Mass and *Petroushka*. Royal Festival Hall, Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

SINOPIOLI/PHILHARMONIA: Giuseppe Sinopoli and the Philharmonia Orchestra with Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1, the *Adagio* of Mahler's Symphony No 10, and Brahms's Symphony No 4. Royal Festival Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

UNIVERSITY TRIBUTE: In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the City University, the LSO interprets Beethoven's *Overture to Mozart's Piano Concerto K 455* and Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.45pm.

ALL ELGAR: Sinopoli and the Philharmonia Orchestra again, this time in Elgar's Introduction and Allegro, Serenade, "Enigma Variations" and *Cello Concerto*. Royal Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

THE BELLS: Neeme Järvi conducts the Scottish National Orchestra and Chorus in Rachmaninov's great choral symphony, *The Bells*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* and Bizet's youthful Symphony in G. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031-228 1155). Fri, 7.30pm.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* on Thurs and Dec 7 at 7.30pm. John Mauceri is now conducting. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: On Wed at 7pm a new production of *Don Giovanni*. Jonathan Miller turns his hand to Mozart's so-called *dramma giocoso*, with Philip Prowse designing and Mark Elder conducting. Janáček's *Katya Kabanova*, restaged by David Pountney and conducted by Simon Rattle has its penultimate performance on Fri at 7.30pm. Tonight, Mon and Thurs at 7.30pm the Gerald Scarfe-designed *Orpheus in the Underworld* continues its run, and on Tues at 7pm Gounod's *Faust* has Arthur Davies in the title role. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

FLUTE PANTO: New production of Mozart's *Magic Flute* which promises "vulgar slapstick comedy, tales of transformations and surreal eroticism". Performances start on Wed at 8pm. Press night Thurs at 7pm, Dec 7. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 8847).

OPERA 99: Two unmissable productions: *Rake's Progress* and a dark, violent, sometimes confusing *Don Giovanni*. This week the tour stops at Lincoln, with the *Don* on Tues and Thurs and the *Rake* on Wed and Fri. All performances start at 7.30pm. Theatre Royal, Lincoln (0522 25555).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: At Swansea this week with *Così fan tutti* on Tues and Fri, conducted by György Fischer; *Rigoletto* on Wed; and *Madam Butterfly* Thurs and Dec 7. All performances start at 7.15pm. Grand Theatre, Swansea (0792 55141).

SCOTTISH OPERA: The Magic Flute on Tues, not to be missed, their new Offenbach *Vie Parisienne* on Wed and Dec 7, and single performances on Thurs and Fri respectively of Handel's *Orlando* and the new production of Weber's *Oberon*. Empire Theatre, Lime Street, Liverpool (051 709 1555).

DANCE

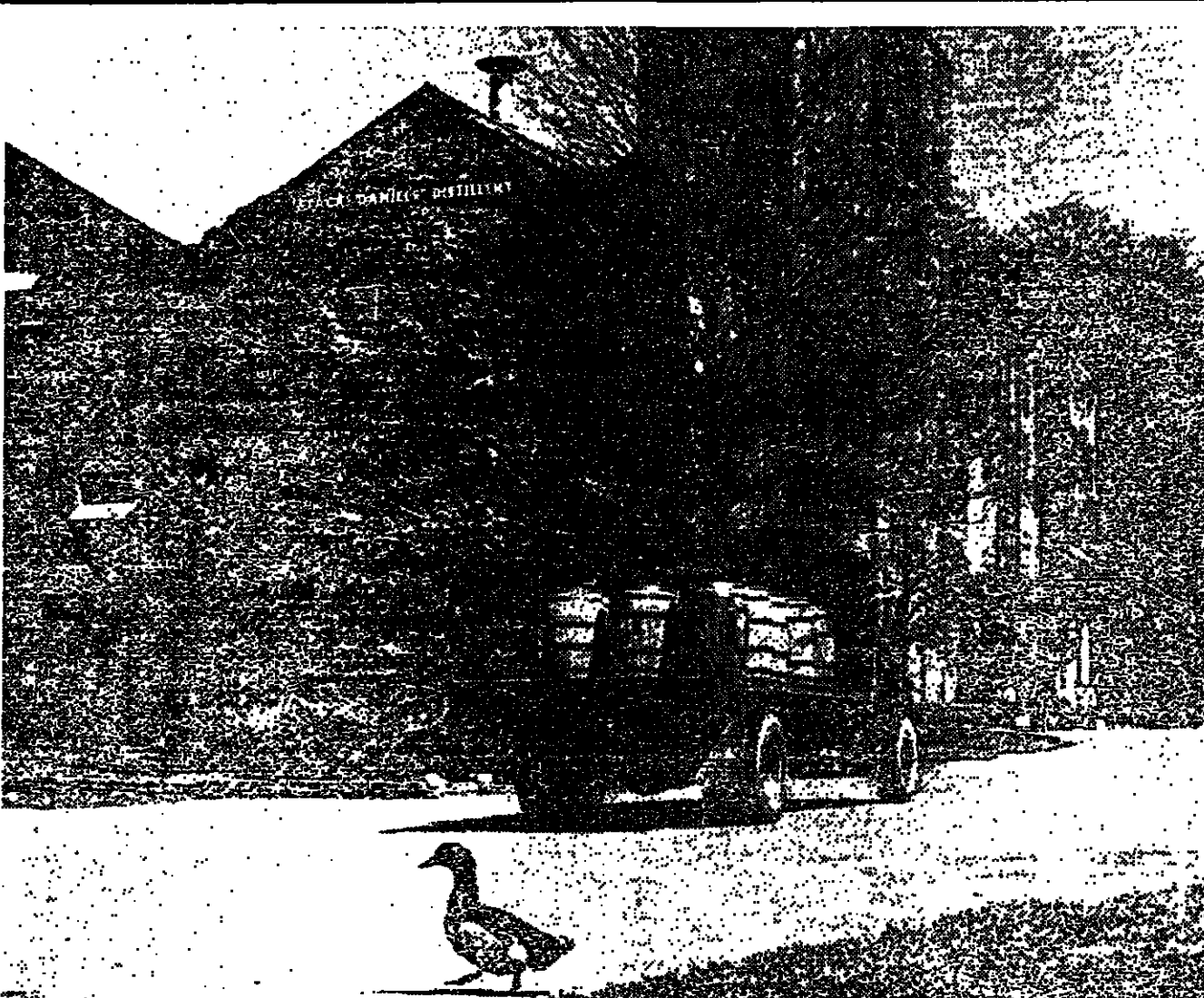
LONDON CONTEMPORARY: Three-week London season opens Tues. This week's programme includes Jerome Robbins's *Moves* and Siobhan Davies's *Bridge the Distance*, with Tom Jobe's *Rite Electric*. Sadler's Wells (01-278 9816).

ROYAL BALLET: Lesley Collier and Stephen Jeffries in the new production of *Giselle* this afternoon; Maria Almeida gives her first performances in the title role tonight and Wed, partnered by Anthony Dowell. *The Sleeping Beauty* is performed with Jennifer Fawcett (Mon) and Karen Pailey (Tues). Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

FESTIVAL BALLET: The London week of the hand-picked small group LFB ends with two programmes including *Aurore* this afternoon and Nils Christie's *Necessarily So* tonight. The full-scale company continues its tour of *Coppelia* at Bristol today and Plymouth, Mon - Dec 7. Sadler's Wells (01-278 9816). Bristol Hippodrome (0272 299444). Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 668595).

DANCE UMBRELLA: Three performances this weekend end this year's festival of new dance. Tonight, The Kosh present *Marked Cards* at 5.30pm, and Katie Duck's collaborative project with British dancers *Reckless* at 7.30pm. Tomorrow, Laurie Booth and Philip Jeck lead a *Final Film* with party spirit and special guests. Riverside Studios, Hammersmith (01-748 3354).

ON TOUR: Ballet Rambert is at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234) today and Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne (0832 322011) Tues - Dec 7 with works by Alston, Bruce, North, Tetley, Waggoner and newcomer Mary Evelyn. Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet is at the Empire, Sunderland (0783 42517) today with *The Sleeping Beauty* and the Gaumont. Southampton (0703 229771) with *Swan Lake* and a mixed bill, Mon - Dec 7.



TWO THINGS HAVE PUT the small town of Lynchburg, Tennessee on the map. One is the distillery you're looking at, the oldest registered distillery in America. The other is the unique whiskey that's produced here, Jack Daniel's. It's always been distilled here, and only ever here. And it's been a way of life for over 100 years. So no wonder people call it "good ol' Tennessee sippin' whiskey."

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THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE
SHOCK HORROR: Alan Bates plays the name part in *Yonadab*, Peter Shaffer's first play since the award-winning *Amadeus*. Set in Jerusalem 1,000 years BC, describes itself as "a tale of hypocrisy, intrigue, family rows, incest and calculated murder". Olivier Theatre (01-928 2252) from Wednesday.



TELEVISION
BEATLE DRIVE: Bernard Hill in a stylized biography of John Lennon which often depicts him as a modern Jesus. The point is underlined by the fact that *John Lennon: A Journey in the Life* was made for the religious series, *Everyman*, allegedly consuming half the year's budget. BBC1, Friday, 9.25-11.05pm



OPERA
ENO'S ELVIRA: Felicity Lott is seen on the London opera stage all too rarely. But after a successful autumn tour of Australia she is singing Donna Elvira in Jonathan Miller's new production of *Don Giovanni* for the English National Opera. William Shnell takes the title role. Coliseum (01-836 3161) from Wednesday.



JAZZ
BAND MASTER: Django Bates, with his startling improvisations on synthesizer, melodica, tenor horn and piano, is one of many reasons for hearing Loose Tubes, a 21-piece band that sums up the exciting new spirit of British jazz. Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Friar Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), Monday to Saturday.



GALLERIES
SET PIECES: Yolanda Sonnabend is an artistic Jill of all trades who designs sets and costumes for ballet (productions by Sir Kenneth MacMillan) and cinema (*The Tempest* by Derek Jarman), as well as painting for herself. An exhibition covering all aspects of her work opens today at the Serpentine Gallery (01-402 6075).



FILMS
SHELL OUT: Harold Pinter has adapted *Turtle Diary* (PG), Russell Hoban's touching novel about two misfits who hatch a plan to liberate their idols from the London Zoo. The stars are Glenda Jackson, Ben Kingsley and several turtles: the director is John Irvin. Curzon West End (01-439 4805) from Sunday.

THE TIMES CHOICE

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

THE CHERRY ORCHARD: New production directed by Mike Alfreds, using a translation by him and Lilia Sokolov. Eleanor Bron, Sheila Hancock and Roy Kinnear. Cottesloe (01-928 2252). Previews Tues-Fri, Dec 7, 8. Opens Dec 10.

ON THE EDGE: Guy Hibbert's new play is set in a run-down bungalow near an American military base in England. Robin LeFevre directs. Hampstead Theatre (01-722 9301). Previews from Thurs. Opens Dec 12.

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL: Beverly Cross has adapted the romantic adventure story by Baroness Orczy and M. Barstow. Donald Sinden as Sir Percy Blakeney, hero of the French Revolution. Her Majesty's (01-930 4025/6806). Previews from Thurs. Opens Dec 11.

OPENINGS

CUPBOARD MAN: Fringe First winner at Edinburgh Festival, this adaptation from an Ian McEwan short story is performed by Phelim McDermott and directed by Julia Sarsley. It will play as part of a double bill with *White Rose*, also from Edinburgh 1985, which begins performances Dec 7. Almeida Theatre, Adelaide Street, London W1 (01-359 4404). Opens Fri. Press Night Dec 9, with *White Rose*.

HANSEL AND GRETEL: Colin Sell and Vince Foxall's adaptation from the brothers Grimm is directed by Jonathan Martin and billed as a traditional Christmas pantomime. Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, London E15 (01-534 0310). Opens Mon.

A PRAYER FOR WINGS: Joan Plowright and Sean Mathias direct Mathias's play about a mother and the daughter who is tied to her, it seems, without hope of escape. Bush Theatre, Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 (01-743 3388). Previews from Wed. Opens Fri.

LES MISERABLES: Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's musical based on the Victor Hugo novel, with lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer and additional material by James Fenton. Palace (01-437 6834). From Wed.

THE MR MEN MUSICAL: Malcolm Sinclair's stage musical based on Roger Hargreaves's cartoon characters. Matinee season in London between provincial tours. Vaudeville (01-836 5645/7595). Opens Tues; no performances Wed.

WEALTH: A new musical adaption of Aristophanes's satirical comedy. Croydon Warehouse, 62 Dingley Road, Croydon (01-660 4083). Opens Fri.

SELECTED

GUYS AND DOLLS: Lulu is absolutely right for the role of Miss

Adelaide in the National Theatre's exuberant revival, with strong support from Norman Rossington, Clarke Peters, Betsy Brantley. Prince of Wales (01-930 8681).



LOVE FOR LOVE: Peter Wood's revival of Coward's play with Tim Curry (above), Michael Bryant, Basil Henson and Sara Kestelman. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). In repertory.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: Ian McKellen is superb as the equivocal herring Bosola in a grand revival of Webster's Jacobean shocker. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). In repertory.

MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION: Joan Plowright as the warm-hearted madam and Jessica Turner as her rebellious daughter lead in Anthony Page's production. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). In repertory.

PRAVDA: David Hare and Howard Brenton's near-the-knuckle account of the rise of a ruthless colonial newspaper magnate provides Anthony Hopkins with a gem of a role. Olivier (01-928 2252). In repertory.

VASSA: Janet Suzman as the embittered heroine of Gorky's political masterpiece is well supported by Gillian Martell and Tony Rohr. Greenwich (01-858 7755).

OUT OF TOWN

ABERDEEN: Dick Whittington: Eric Sykes, Duncan Goodhew, Russell Hunter, Fiona Kennedy, Jan Hunt in a traditional pantomime. His Majesty's Theatre (0224 638080). Opens Fri.

BRISTOL: Passion Play: Peter Nichols's bitter sexual comedy about a marriage broken down by one partner's affair. Olivier, Theatre Royal (0272 24388).

COVENTRY: Hello I'm Eight: The premiere of Terry Wilson and Jim McManus's study of a male gay couple obliged to accommodate the small son of one of them by a previous marriage. Belgrade Studio (0203 553055).

MANCHESTER: Jack and the Giant: Trevor Peacock's musical fantasy is based on the original fairy tale. Royal Exchange (061 833 9833). Opens Thurs.

FILMS

OPENINGS

BACK TO THE FUTURE (PG): A modern teenager is whisked back to 1955, when fashions - and his parents - were very different. Overblown fantasy from Steven Spielberg's company, directed by Robert Zemeckis. With Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd. Empire (01-437 1234). From Wed

A ZED AND TWO NOUGHTS (18): Peter Greenaway's first feature since *The Draughtsman's Contract* spins a messily bizarre story of love, decay and evolution among the employees and inhabitants of a zoo. Music by Michael Nyman: with Andrea Ferrell, Brian and Eric Deacon. Lumiere (01-836 0691). From Thurs.

LEGEND (PG): Ridley Scott's latest film hitches a wagon-load of special effects to a slender tale of good and evil among young lovers, elves, unicorns and a giant with horns and cloven feet (Tim Curry). Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252). From Fri.

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GALLERIES

OPENINGS

GREAT BRITISH CARTOONS: Bateson, Low and Belcher are all here for the taking (at a price you understand) by cartoon collectors. Langton Gallery, 3 Langton Street, SW10 (01-352 9150) from Tues.

PRIZE PIGS: Not just the four-legged variety, but male chauvinist pigs also, in an exhibition of work by 30 artists, including Nicole Hicks and Ian Haworth. Nevill Gallery, 2a York Street, Bath (0225 88904) from Fri.

ANIMALS FROM THE BURRELL COLLECTION: Birds and beasts in bronze, an ancient Egyptian cat and a 19th-century French camel, all feature in this Christmas exhibition of animals. The Burrell Collection, Pollok Country Park, Glasgow (041 649 7151) from Wed.

THE OBSESSION OF DANCE: Paintings and drawings of dancers from the Royal Ballet, London Festival Ballet and Ballet Rambert by the American painter Robert Rindler. Royal Festival Hall, Main Foyer, South Bank, London SE1 (01-767 4688 for information) from Fri.

EARL OF ARUNDEL: You've heard of the Elgin Marbles. Now consider the Arundel marbles, and paintings, and furniture. A loan exhibition. Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, Beaumont Street, Oxford (0865 512551) until Jan 12.

HALLELUJAH! HANDEL: 300th anniversary of the birth of the composer, with paintings, sculpture, engravings, musical instruments and scores. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (01-930 1552) until Feb 23.

GIVEN JOHN: Drawings and watercolours by the artist recently fêted at the Barbican, and now the subject of a major show at the Athenaeum in Manchester. Anthony d'Offay, 9 Dering Street, New Bond Street, W1 (01-499 4100) until Dec 20.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE STARS: Movie stars, that is, and all the prints in this exhibition are for sale at prices from £50. Gene Kelly, Spencer Tracey, Ava Gardner and many more by Hollywood stills photographers such as Lazlo Willinger and Ted Allen. The Print Room, The Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 8 Great Newport Street, London WC2 (01-240 1999).

MARY, COUNTESS OF ROSSE: Pioneering photographer who came to the subject only after marrying the third Earl of Rosse in the 1850s. Family and friends as well as life on their estate in Ireland. National Museum of Photography, Prince's View, Bradford (0274 727488).

PHOTOGRAPHY

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From the gallows to stage fright



Miranda Richardson, the actress who played Ruth Ellis on film, talks to Clare Colvin about her part in a stage shocker

There she was, just a few seasons of rep behind her, hailed at 26 as a new star who would join the acting greats. It was heady and overwhelming and after it she needed to come down to earth.

Treading the boards of a half-empty theatre on a chilly winter night in the north of England is guaranteed to remove any traces of false pride.

Miranda Richardson is back in the theatre for the first time since she gathered the critics' superlatives for her portrayal of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to hang in Britain, in the film *Dance With a Stranger*. Her vehicle is *Edmond*, by the American writer, David Mamet, which has just finished a season at the Newcastle Playhouse on its way to London.

Newcastle audiences were shocked by the language and the theme. Mamet, author of *American Buffalo*, is running true to form.

Backstage, Miranda Richardson takes off her make-up and tries to unwind. She has been playing a highly charged scene as a hysterical waitress attracted by violence.

She is slight and seems frail with a pale, finely featured face. She looks at you intently. Her hair still suffers from the peroxide bleach for the blonde Ruth Ellis and is now a light shade of ginger. She laughs a lot and occasionally sighs. She is nervous about her return to the stage but the chance of working with the director, Richard Eyre, on a new Mamet play, was not to be missed.

"What is so comforting is that everyone is equally important. We are all responsible for holding the play together. It is different in films. I felt very alone when I was making *Dance With a Stranger*. I was quite ill afterwards. Your body goes into overdrive during the time you have to concentrate and then it collapses."

Miranda Richardson, the actress who played Ruth Ellis on film, talks to Clare Colvin about her part in a stage shocker

about a harlot who turns into a panther, which I turned down, and eventually I got a part in *The Innocent*, a film about an epileptic boy growing up in a small village in Yorkshire in the 1930s."

There were also two television adaptations of books by Elizabeth Bowen. *The Death of a Hero*, which is to be shown on ITV on December 22, and a horror film, shortly to be released, called *Underworld*.

She remembers wanting to act from the age of four, though other ambitions intervened, like being a vet or a film director. "I know that the responsibility a film director has is not something I want. I chose acting because it is something I could do. I was introduced to Shakespeare at school and I couldn't get enough of it. I love words, and I had a creative writing phase from the age of 15 to 19. I wanted to write and illustrate children's books, and I may still do so one day."

After leaving the girls' grammar school at Southport, Lancashire, she applied to Bristol University to read English Literature. She had slipped in, on an application to train at the Bristol Old Vic. If the drama school accepted her, would she go there? asked the university. She replied that she would and she did, so that was the end of her university phase.

"I got my Equity card as assistant stage manager at the Manchester Library Theatre, and then moved to London, where I had a fairly bleak summer doing jelly adverts. I had six months in the West End in a play called *Moving*, then went back to rep in Derby,

Lancashire, Leicester and Bristol. "There were some good parts - Hazel in *Savage Amusement*, Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and the Actress in *Insignificance*. I was playing Bertrand Russell, of all people, in *The Life of Einstein* in Lancaster, when I got a call from my agent to audition for Ruth Ellis."

The director, Mike Newell, was looking for an unknown so that for the audience it would be Ruth Ellis rather than a familiar face up on the screen. In Miranda, he sensed a wired-up quality, a feeling for danger.

The film has greatly changed her life, though she has just become a first time owner of a maisonette in Forest Hill where she lives with her Siamese cat. Her only exotic pastime is falconry. "I know it sounds very posy, but I love falcons. I've done a couple of training courses, but I don't keep one. I wouldn't get on with the cat."

In *Edmond* she has two small parts, that of a fortune teller and a peep-show girl, and the larger one of Glenna, a waitress Edmond picks up in a cafe. Edmond Booth plays the parts of Edmond's wife and the manager of a massage parlour. Mamet, one of America's leading young playwrights, deals with restless and rootless people, who are motivated not so much out of a dream of winning as a fear of losing.

"There is tremendous music in the play and such economy of words. The characters' roles are mainly symbolic. It's like a Pilgrim's Progress. Edmond is Mr Ordinary - except that he rebels from his ordinary life of marriage and discussions about light fittings over the dinner table."

Colin Stinton, who earlier that day had been throttling Miranda on a bed, popped his head round her dressing room door and said it was time for dinner. They were celebrating the birthday of one of the cast at a posh Newcastle restaurant.

When the meal was over Miranda Richardson started building a column of wine glasses, one balanced on top of another. It looked dangerous but was perfectly thought out. Just like her acting.

Edmond opens at the Royal Court Theatre (01-730 1745) on Tuesday.

ARTS DIARY

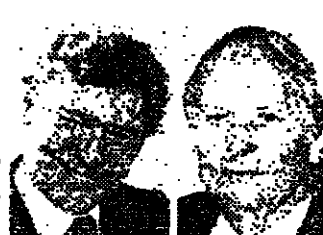
A look back in anger?

Joan Plowright continues to pack the National Theatre with her dazzling performance in *Mrs Warren's Profession*. But whatever happened to the play she should have been starring in this week at The National, *The Entertainer*? In the summer Miss Plowright was directing *A Prayer for Wings* at the Edinburgh Festival when it became known that John Osborne, author of *Entertainer*, would not let it be staged with Joan in the lead. By coincidence, Osborne's ex wife Jill Bennett, a person of whom he is no longer very fond, was being directed by Joan's son Richard Olivier on the same bill at the same theatre. Osborne's enigmatic statement made people ask if the events were connected. "Who knows?" chuckles Joan, clearly unaffected by the last minute change of play. "Anything is possible with John". While *The Entertainer* has been shelved indefinitely, *A Prayer for Wings* opens next week at London's Bush Theatre.

More on the unprecedented artistic row between Terry Gilliam, ex-Monty Python, and the Universal studios in California which refuse to release his film *Brazil* in the United States, even though it is a box office hit in Europe. Gilliam has now persuaded the studio bosses to sell the film back to him for around £4 million. He will then be able to distribute the film himself, thus discovering whether Universal's theory - that American audiences like a happy ending - has any basis in fact. An expensive gamble.

Brought to book

The National Book League is about to get a much-needed shot in the arm. Under the chairmanship of Frank Delaney, it has commissioned a report on ways of attracting major sponsorship to assist in its work of acting as a consumer



Delaney and Luce

clearing-house for virtually anything to do with books (it even provides the Queen with what Delaney describes as "an expensive holiday library" at Balmoral each year). There may be, too, an updated title for the 60-year old league. Always a combative sort of fellow, Delaney is strangely evasive about reports of a recent bust-up with the Arts minister Richard Luce, but is clearly not satisfied with his performance. "Any arts minister has got to do an awful lot more for literature", he growls. "It has been consistently downgraded."

Within our Ken

After a period of abstinence lasting 30 years, Ken Russell is to return to making television commercials. He has formed a production company, and is touting for business, "I stopped making commercials on moral grounds, but I'm prepared to give them a go again", he says. Russell gave up his lucrative sideline after making a commercial in which a schoolboy, forced to eat cosmetically-treated baked beans before the cameras, was sick 12 times. "And I had to make a washing-machine commercial where we were forced to reverse the film in order to show how wonderfully it worked." He promises he will choose his subjects with more care this time round.

Christopher Wilson

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